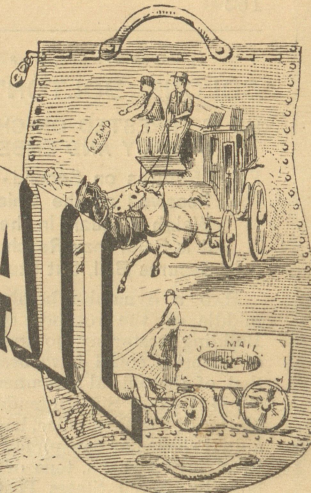




THE UNITED STATES MAIL



VOL. II.

NEW YORK—CHICAGO, AUGUST, 1886.

No. 23

THE POSTMASTERS' BILL.

THE following is the Postmasters' Bill, as introduced into the Senate by Senator Wilson, of Iowa. It is numbered 2,036, was read twice and referred to the Committee on Post-offices and Post Roads:

A BILL

TO AMEND section thirty-eight hundred and sixty of the Revised Statutes of the United States, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section thirty-eight hundred and sixty of the Revised Statutes of the United States be amended so as to read:

"The Postmaster-general may allow to the postmaster of New York city, and to the postmasters at offices of the first, second, and third classes, out of the surplus revenues of their respective offices, that is to say, the excess of box-rents and commissions over and above the salary assigned to the office, a reasonable sum for the necessary cost of rent, light, fuel, furniture, stationery, printing, clerks, and necessary incidentals, to be adjusted on a satisfactory exhibit of the facts; and no such allowance shall be made except upon the order of the Postmaster-general."

Sec. 2. That section four of an act approved March third, eighteen hundred and eighty-three, entitled "An act to modify the Postal Money-order System, and for other purposes," be, and the same hereby is amended so as to read as follows:

"Sec. 4. That postmasters at money-order post-offices whose annual salary is not less than three thousand dollars may be allowed by the Postmaster-general to employ such number of clerks in the transaction of their money-order business, at such rates of compensation for the clerical labor performed, as may be deemed reasonable; and at all other money-order offices the compensation for the clerical labor employed in the money-order business, including the issue and payment of

postal notes, shall be one-half of the fee for each domestic or international money order issued, and one-fourth of the fee on each domestic or international money order paid or repaid, and one cent for each postal note issued, and three-quarters of one cent for each postal note paid thereat, and in case any office is designated to receive on deposit surplus money orders from other post-offices, three and one half cents for each certificate is-

sued in acknowledgment of the receipt of such funds; but the total allowance made by the Postmaster-general for money-order clerks at any first-class office shall be based, as nearly as possible, upon the number of transactions, at the same rate for each transaction as is above fixed for the compensation of clerical labor at other post-offices; and the compensation of the postmasters and the clerks provided for by this section shall be paid out of the fees re-

ceived for the issue of money-orders and postal notes: *Provided*, That in addition to an allowance for clerical services at the rates above mentioned, the Postmaster-general may allow to the postmaster at New York, New York, to the postmaster at San Francisco, California, to the postmaster at Portland, Oregon, and to the postmaster at each international exchange office, such an amount in each case, out of the proceeds of the money-order business, as he may deem expedient, to enable these postmasters to obtain the clerical labor necessary for the performance of such special duties as are imposed upon them by the operation of the money-order system, and are not required of other postmasters: *And provided further*, That credit shall not be allowed to a postmaster at a first-class office on account of an expenditure in payment of clerical service in the money-order business in his office, except upon a voucher duly receipted by the person by whom such service shall have been performed: *And provided further*, That the salaries of postmasters, as fixed by law, shall be deemed and taken to be full compensation for the responsibility and risk incurred, and for the personal services rendered by them as custodians of the money-order and other funds of the Post-office Department."

Sec. 3. That section two of an act approved March 3d, 1883, entitled "An Act to adjust the salaries of postmasters," be amended so as to read, in the tenth line thereof, "and on the first one hundred dollars," instead of "on the first fifty dollars."

Sec. 4. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The 13th April 1886

John H. Patterson, Esq

*My Dear Sir: I willingly
Comply with your request
and join my voice with
the Commendations of my
predecessors in this office
upon your brightface
and Cheery Magazine,
The United States Mail
It is so full of interest and
valuable information to
persons interested in the
postal service that it
must by its merits Com-
mand a general patronage
Very truly yours
W. H. Files*

(Chicago Tribune, Tuesday, July 26th).

COLONEL BOLTON'S DISGRACE.**HE IS ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF CONSPIRACY AND EMBEZZLEMENT.****False Returns on Second-class Mail-Matter Received at the Chicago Post-office—Weigher Stuart in the Toils—The Deficit it is Said, may Reach \$100,000—Bolton Secures Bail, but Stuart Goes to Jail.**

HAD a dynamite bomb exploded in the middle of the rotunda of the Government Building yesterday no greater consternation or surprise could have been occasioned than that of the official announcement that Colonel W. H. Bolton, Superintendent of Second-class Matter of the Post-office, had been arrested, on a dual charge of conspiracy and embezzlement involving, perhaps, tens of thousands of dollars, by United States Post-office Inspectors. Yet such was the fact, and to all appearances the inspectors, who have been quietly at work on Bolton's department for the last three weeks, have found something more than ordinary clews to work upon.

Over two months ago a general inspection of the Post-office and Federal Departments of the District of Illinois was ordered by the Secretary of the Treasury and Postmaster-general. All the Departments were gone through carefully and reported in excellent standing by the inspectors. Finally the Department of Second-class Matter was reached about two weeks ago, and Inspectors George B. Kidder and F. M. Bassett informed Colonel Bolton that they were authorized to look through his books and make a general report of their condition to the Postmaster-general at Washington. Colonel Bolton was very indignant, and insisted that he would show his books to "no spies upon the interior management of my office." Inspector Kidder informed the colonel that there was no spying about the matter, but that himself and Inspector Bassett were instructed to demand an accounting from him and were determined to have it, let the consequences be what they might; and they forthwith began to overhaul the colonel's accounts. Colonel Bolton grew wrathful, and attempted to oust the inspectors from his office, but to no purpose. Then the colonel swore that he would not put up with any such indignity—he would resign first. He was as good as his word, and he forthwith wrote out his resignation, to take effect immediately, and placed it in the hands of Assistant Postmaster Squires. Mr. Squires and the colonel's many friends advised him to desist from this course, as anything that the inspectors might find apparently loose in his department might seem to be the cause of the resignation. The resignation was tacitly reconsidered by the colonel, but the inspectors continued their search.

The colonel was anything but civil with them, and, it is charged, did everything in his power to impede their progress, and boastingly defied them to find anything wrong in his books and reports. Everything went well until Saturday afternoon, when Inspector Kidder happened to walk into the colonel's department and began to search for a certain consignment of papers delivered by the Western News Company. The colonel was not present at the time, but he heard about it afterward, and was evidently worried. In this connection it may be mentioned that Inspector Kidder demanded an inspection of certain books of his (the colonel's) department last week, and the colonel peremptorily refused to comply, saying that such a request was a reflection upon the integrity of his administration of affairs in his office. The rest of the story may best be told as related to a *Tribune* reporter by Inspector George B. Kidder yesterday:

INSPECTOR KIDDER'S STORY.

"I have no doubt that it will be made to appear in some quarters that this is a piece of political persecution. I have only been here a short time, and I was assigned here for a purpose. Personally, I certainly have no insatiable desire for political scalps. Myself and Mr. Bassett took up the inspection of the Second-class Mail Department in due course,

the same as any other department, and met no opposition from chiefs of departments until we struck this one. Bolton wanted to kick us out, and we wouldn't go; and, finding that we were determined to look him up, he swore that he would resign. He did resign, but that was no object to us; we kept on looking up the accounts of the department, not the man. Five days ago we struck a lead and followed it up, and that lead is what put the 'clinch' on Colonel Bolton and Weigher Stuart to-day."

"What do you mean? Were not the colonel's books accurate and correct in every respect?"

"They were—even to a figure. But we had our suspicions, and because he refused to give us any assistance we went on the outside for information. The colonel's books were kept in excellent style in every respect, and tallied to a dot with the reports sent from his department to Washington, and it was upon this excellent system that he was banking. How we caught him was by seeing the parties who consigned the packages to him, and we caught him big and beyond any hope of his crawling out."

"How did you catch him, then?"

"Well, you must know that Colonel Bolton handled all the newspaper mail in bulk going out of Chicago, which, by the way, is no small matter. All the big daily papers were dependent upon him for their mailing accounts, daily, weekly, or monthly. Very well. Supposing, now, that the *Tribune* sent 25,000 pounds of mail-matter through his department every week. The *Tribune* doesn't weigh the papers in bulk, but trusts to the honesty of Colonel Bolton. Well, Bolton receipts for 25,000 pounds of matter on the report of his chief weigher, sends a bill for that amount, collects and receipts for it. Very well. The chief weigher being in collusion with him, fixes a deal. Where the original weight was 25,000 pounds the weigher sends up a report to his superintendent of 15,000 pounds, which, at the rate of one cent a pound, makes a discrepancy of \$100 on one consignment of one lot of papers alone. This \$100 is divided between the superintendent of the department and chief weigher, and a receipt with cash for 15,000 pounds of matter is duly forwarded to the cashier and auditor of the department, fixed accordingly on the books of these departments, and so officially reported all O. K. at Washington, and everything goes swimmingly. If we had taken the standing of the books of these different departments we would be thrown off our guard, but seeing that the colonel was thrown off his equilibrium by our investigation, and had been even driven to resign, we looked outside, and within five hours we found a discrepancy of \$4,600 in one year between the actual mailing and showings of two concerns in this city—the Western News Company and a two-cent morning paper. That was pretty good stealing for two minor concerns, and we were naturally led to inquire if Bolton had robbed two establishments of that much in one year, from October, 1884, to October, 1885, how much did he rob the Government of from the revenues in the nine years he has held the position? Bolton couldn't have been successful in this racket unless he had a confederate in the weighing department, and I think we have caught the proper man in the person of Stuart."

"How do you make that out?"

"Among other things we came across in Colonel Bolton's department was a check-book for a private account with the Chicago National Bank. In this check-book were several stubs, the checks of which were made payable to John T. Stuart, Jr., and in one month alone we found checks amounting to \$420. This circumstance, coupled with the fact that we had discovered undeniable crookedness in the weighing and receipting for second-class matter, led us to believe that Stuart was the other guilty party. It looked mightily like it, anyhow."

"Do you think you can make your case?"

"I should say so. Thus far we have discovered, without any trouble, a discrepancy of \$4,600 in one year alone from two concerns, and if we can get any clew at all in the way of vouchers from the newspaper offices of the city for the last five years, or three years

alone, say, I have no doubt that we can prove the defalcation to be \$85,000 or \$100,000 without any trouble. There is no doubt in my mind that there has been a gigantic piece of robbery going on in this department for years."

THE COLONEL'S HIGH INDIGNATION.

Colonel Bolton was indignant when he was first arrested in the corridor of the Government Building by Deputy Marshal Jones, and invited up to the inspectors' room. Even when he got to the room he was defiant, until Inspectors Bassett and Kidder produced his falsified sheets of mail receipts for the two concerns mentioned, together with the proper report. Then he turned pale and refused to answer any questions. During the interview Inspector Bassett slipped from the room and swore out a warrant for Stuart's arrest. Stuart was arrested by Deputy Marshal W. H. Dutcher, and was brought before the inspectors. He positively refused to answer a question, and after realizing his position he seemed to become dazed and stupid.

The two prisoners were removed back to Commissioner Hoyne's office to await bail. Stuart trusted to Bolton, who promised through his influence to get bail for both parties. Stuart was remanded to Marshal Marsh's office in custody of Deputy Marshal Dutcher, where he remained all the afternoon. Deputy Marshal Jones took Colonel Bolton out to look for bondsmen, and at five o'clock the pair returned, but hadn't made much of a success of their search. The only bondsman that Colonel Bolton could find was Joe H. Coles, saloon-keeper, opposite the Government Building. Coles wasn't anxious to go on the bonds, either, and he did all he could to keep his name off it. He was finally induced to sign, however, and then Colonel Bolton tried to get Colonel Clowry of the Post-office to sign the document, but Colonel Clowry begged to be excused—he had heard of the evidence against the accused, much opposed as he was to believing it. Finally Le Grand W. Perce, Bolton's attorney, signed the bond in conjunction with Coles. Meantime, no attempt had been made to secure bail for poor Stuart, who sat a picture of misery and dejection in the Marshal's office. He hadn't made an attempt to secure bail because, as he said, he wouldn't say a word and wouldn't make a move, as "the colonel" would provide for him. But the colonel was looking out for himself and had his hands full. None of the colonel's influential friends showed up to help him out, and at six o'clock the colonel came very near going to Hanchett's Bastile himself. He was beside himself, and, wringing his hands in despair, he cried: "My God! must I go to jail after all?"

"I am sorry, but I see no way to avoid it," said Assistant District-Attorney Boal. There was another consultation, during which Stuart was advised to go over to jail and trust to "tomorrow." The poor fellow meekly complied, and was taken to the county jail by Deputy Marshal Davis. Somehow, after Stuart had been conveyed to the jail, Assistant District-Attorney Boal went before Commissioner Hoyne at eight o'clock last evening and accepted the bonds he had first rejected for Colonel Bolton's appearance, signed by Joe Coles and Le Grand Perce, for \$15,000, for the colonel is held in two charges—embezzlement of Government funds and conspiracy to defraud the Government—while Stuart is arrested for conspiracy to defraud alone. Colonel Bolton was given his liberty about 8:30 o'clock last night.

Stuart is a son of the celebrated Illinois Congressman John T. Stuart, who was one of the ablest men in the National Assembly when Illinois had but three Congressional Districts. He is also a distant relative of the Abraham Lincoln family. Inspectors Kidder and Bassett are still at work on the case.

"Colonel Bolton is about the last one I would suspect of anything of the kind," said Assistant Postmaster Squires last evening. "He had no bad or extravagant habits so far as I know, but was moderate and temperate, and in easy circumstances. I understood he had some property in Mississippi after the War, and sold it a few years ago for \$10,000, and that he then invested this in real estate in this city

—some property on one of the boulevards, I think I heard him say. His salary was \$2,100 a year, and I never had any reason to think he lived beyond it—in fact, I don't believe he did. I had the fullest confidence in Colonel Bolton's integrity, and I know that Mr. Judd was of a similar mind."

Mr. Stuart was seen at the County Jail last night by a *Tribune* reporter. He looked troubled and weary, and stated that he was quite ill. He was not prepared to make any statement and declined to answer any questions.

At a quarter to ten o'clock last night a carriage rapidly drove up to the Adams Street entrance of the Custom-house, from which a gentleman somewhat excitedly and hurriedly alighted, and, making his way in great haste to the corridor, asked if the Chief Marshal or any of the mail-inspectors were yet in the building. It proved to be ex-Secretary of War Robert T. Lincoln. Mr. Lincoln was in consultation with Mail-Inspectors Adsit and Bassett until eleven o'clock. After the conference, Mr. Lincoln said that he had known Stuart since Stuart was five years of age, and he had every assurance and conviction that he could not have been guilty of any dishonest intrigue. Such a revelation is utterly foreign to Stuart's whole career. "I knew nothing whatever of this matter," Mr. Lincoln continued, "until about half-past eight o'clock, when I made hurried preparations to come down here to inquire as to the story. It would be too late to-night to do anything with regard to Mr. Stuart's release on bond. I cannot believe that he is guilty of the charges brought against him, and no intimation was made to me from him as to what has happened." It is expected that Stuart will find no difficulty in obtaining bonds to-day.

Colonel Bolton is a leading member of St. James's Episcopal Church, being an officer of the congregation, and is prominently identified with all the leading military organizations of the city. Said Marshal Marsh yesterday: "By George! there is a brave soldier who had command of a battery that our regiment backed up in the War, and I hate like fury to be compelled to take his liberty from him, or to in any manner take him into custody."

(Chicago Times, Wednesday, July 28th.)

BOLTON'S CASE.

Some People already Saying "I Told you So."
Additional Shortages Discovered.

AN air of solemn suspense and expectancy was visible on the countenance of nearly everybody about the Federal Building yesterday, founded on the predictions of the previous day that other startling disclosures would follow the revelation of Colonel W. H. Bolton's embezzlement of postal funds. There were no new developments of a sensational nature, however. Colonel Bolton did not appear at the post-office at any time during the day, and was said to be in conference with his attorney and bondsmen. Robert T. Lincoln visited Commissioner Hoynes' office early in the day and furnished the \$5,000 bonds required for the release of John T. Stuart, the weigher, charged with conspiring with Colonel Bolton to defraud the Government. He expressed surprise and regret that Stuart had neglected to let him know of his trouble sooner, that he might have spared him the humiliation of passing the night in jail. The inspectors are hopeful that Stuart, under the advice of Mr. Lincoln, may change his tactics and make a clean breast of the whole matter. A good deal of sympathy is expressed for Stuart on account of his family connections, which are in the highest degree respectable. On the other hand, there is considerable dissent from the high opinions expressed of Colonel Bolton's character immediately after the first shock caused by his arrest, and many rumors, some of them most improbable, are being circulated about him. It appears that there were a few persons, at least, who did not believe him the honorable gentleman he was represented to be, and who claim to be in no wise surprised at the outcome of his career as a trusted employé of the Government.

Post-office Inspectors Kidder and Bassett continued their examination of Colonel Bolton's books all day, and up to eleven o'clock last night, comparing his records with those furnished them by the various newspapers. This is necessarily slow work, and comparatively little progress was made. An additional shortage of \$471 in the last quarter of 1885 and another of \$580 in the first six months of 1886 were found in the accounts with the *Daily News* company, making a total of \$1,987 with that Company alone. The accounts with the Western News Company showed a deficit of \$326.63 during the first quarter of 1885, and \$133.45 for the first quarter of 1886, and \$329.28 for the second quarter of the same year; which, added to the shortage previously reported, makes a total of \$4,427.36. The accounts of another company showed a shortage of \$223 in the last quarter of 1884. The total deficit, so far as ascertained, is \$6,637.63, and the examination is but fairly commenced.

W. N. Reynolds, the assistant weigher, has been placed in temporary charge of the Second-class Mail Department. The inspectors say that he is undoubtedly innocent of any collusion with the others.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., July 27th.—(Special)—The news of the arrest of John T. Stuart at Chicago was a matter of surprise to his friends here, who have always known him to be honest and upright in all his dealings, and they are loath to believe him guilty of any infraction of the law. Several years ago he was in the drygoods business in this city, and was afterward in the boot and shoe business. He failed in both branches, and involved his father to the extent of from \$30,000 to \$40,000.

(Chicago Tribune, Thursday, July 29th.)

COL. BOLTON'S ACCOUNTS.

The Shortage thus far Discovered is \$7,800.

WORK upon the investigation of Colonel W. H. Bolton's accounts has been temporarily suspended, and Inspectors Kidder and Bassett left the city last evening to attend to other matters in their department. So far the checking of the accounts has covered the entire period since October 1st, 1884, for one daily paper and for the Western News Company. The accounts of the *Inter-Ocean* for one year, those of the *Tribune* for six months, and of the *Times* for three months, have also been compared with the post-office records, which brings the total defalcation up to about \$7,800. If the remaining accounts to be examined should figure out in the same proportion it is evident that the deficit from October, 1884, to the present date will reach \$15,000. The matter of an increase of the bond for Bolton's appearance was turned over to the District Attorney, together with a statement of the result of the investigation so far. Colonel Tuthill held a consultation with Judge Blodgett, and the conclusion was reached that no such step was necessary, for the reason that the amount could only be increased upon proof that there was an intent to abscond, or upon the filing of an affidavit on issuance of a warrant covering a new charge.

Colonel Bolton was not about the Government Building at any time yesterday, and it was announced by his friends that he was still suffering from the shock of the accusations against him. It was said that he did not leave his house all day, but that Mrs. Bolton had had a consultation with Mr. L. W. Perce, the attorney and bondsman of her husband. While the Government officials declare that they have no idea but that their man will appear when wanted to answer to the charge, Mr. Perce does not appear to be imbued with the same implicit faith. Late Tuesday afternoon there was filed in the Recorder's office a deed from W. H. Bolton and wife to Legrand W. Perce, conveying six lots on the corner of Sixtieth Street and Drexel Avenue to the attorney. In this instrument the consideration is boldly set down as \$20,000, but its intent and purport can be plainly seen. The best possible authorities upon real-estate values agree that \$9,000 would be an outside value upon these lots, but as Bolton's bond only calls for \$15,000 and Joseph Coles is a joint surety with Mr. Perce, there is every reason for be-

lieving that gentleman is perfectly safe. He himself, when approached yesterday, declared that he had nothing whatever to say upon any phase of the case. The friends of Stuart, the weigher, were as reticent as usual yesterday, but there appears to be a growing impression that he will be found willing to tell all he knows about the conduct of the Department of Second-class Mail-matter. His brother-in-law, a practicing attorney at Springfield, Ill., arrived in the city early in the day, and a mutual friend sent word to the Post-office Inspectors that this gentleman would be glad to see them. The officials' reply was that the inspectors could be found in their office, and at a late hour the brother-in-law had not put in an appearance.

There seems to be some mystery still as to the exact manner in which Bolton absorbed the missing money, as the accounts of all the principal papers were settled by certified checks, which passed through the hands of the cashier and postmaster for indorsement and collection. The theory is that he appropriated cash paid in by the smaller firms and used the checks to swell the amount of his cash report, which was made in gross without a detailed statement. The inspectors themselves do not give a lucid explanation of this phase of the case, relying solely upon their asseveration that the money has been stolen partly from the papers, but mostly from the Government, and that they can clearly demonstrate that fact.

When questioned in regard to his interest in the case ex-Postmaster Palmer said that he had not seen the Post-office Inspectors, and had made no personal investigation of the matter, and for that reason did not wish to make any statement of his views. Information sought in other quarters brought out the authentic information that during Mr. Palmer's entire administration every possible step was taken to check up the business of the Second-class Department, and that the feeling between Colonel Bolton and Auditor Upham grew out of the efforts of the latter to follow the instructions of Mr. Palmer in this respect. It was known that nothing could be done there without the collusion of the head weigher, and, while there was not the least suspicion against Colonel Bolton, Stuart was sent to that work upon the recommendation of Mr. Robert T. Lincoln, coupled with the fact that his family and social conditions were of the best. This same authority is of the opinion that the bond given by Bolton to Mr. Palmer is still alive and good in all respects up to \$10,000. Until the total extent of the deficit is known, however, no one can say how far the present or former postmaster may be involved.

A *Tribune* reporter called yesterday morning at No. 109 California Avenue, the residence of Colonel W. H. Bolton, late Superintendent of Second-class Mail-matter, and was told that he could not be seen, as he was ill in bed. Mrs. Bolton at the time was down-town consulting with his lawyers.

There were many rumors about the building yesterday that his alleged defalcation involved others than himself, and it was reported that his books showed payments to other high officials in the office which need to be explained. Many are disposed to think already that he was more sinned against than sinning, and all the more surprise is expressed that more substantial help did not come to him when he was seeking bondsmen in vain.

Postmaster Judd wrote yesterday expressing surprise and regret. He had the utmost confidence in Colonel Bolton.

The rumors of changes in various departments in the Post-office were renewed yesterday, and "influence" was sought far and wide and numerous caucuses ensued. Changes are momentarily expected, and those most indignant heretofore at the mention of filling their places are the most industrious now in trying to set themselves straight with their superiors and vowing they never did it—whatever it may be. Uneasiness prevails throughout the Post-office floor, and no offensive partisans are to be found. But some will be found soon, it is strongly hinted.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS BEING INVESTIGATED.

The Government Post-office Inspectors who

discovered the shortage in the Second-class Mail-matter Division of Colonel Bolton, appear to be on a still hunt throughout all the departments of that institution. "We are not," said one of them, "looking for discrepancies or embezzlements, but it is our duty to see that everything is correct and every cent accounted for in every office and division. In such a huge and complicated institution as the Chicago Post-office it is easy for negligence or incompetency to set things crooked, and a crooked clerk or superintendent, if he were skillful, could cover up his tracks for a time and get away with a good sum of the Government's money."

In their investigations of the Cashier's division of the money-order department a few days ago, they discovered that Assistant Cashier Hay was accidentally short overnight in his balances \$109. When called upon to explain, all he could say was that the shortage was the result of a mistake. He supposed he had overpaid somebody. In no other way could he account for the error. To avoid mistakes in his position was almost impossible, he said, and when he discovered them he made good the loss out of his own pocket if the overpayment could not be traced and recovered. In this instance he had to make good the \$109.

Auditor Rea, to whom the reports of the cashiers of the various divisions are sent, on being spoken to about the matter, expressed his utmost confidence in the unquestioned integrity of Hay and believed his shortage was simply the result of error or errors in the payment of moneys. Such errors with those having the handling of money in any kind of business is unavoidable, he said. It is impossible, however, for these deficiencies to go undetected for over twenty-four hours, since the accounts are balanced and checked every night. The record of the post-office is that every clerk who has had the handling and disbursement of moneys has made errors and over-payments, but as the shortage had always to be made good the Government was at no loss. Mr. Rea has full confidence in Hay, and he felt indignant at the manner in which his mistake has been presented to the public. "It is an outrage," he said, "to put this matter in the light of a crime and blacken, for a mere temporary mistake, the character of an honest, faithful, and trustworthy young man. Hay had been in the postal-note pay department, and no errors were there found after him. But the position was not so difficult as his present one, in which, however, he has committed but two errors during the several months he has been there. General Mead, who was his predecessor, made so many more errors that it was thought best to relieve him."

"Is there any intention of removing Mr. Hay, Mr. Rea?"

"Why should there be? He is competent and believed to be thoroughly honest, and, besides, he is under bonds which would a dozen times secure any mistakes he could possibly make. Little matters like this concern the post-office authorities more than the public, and the former will see that their own as well as the Government's interests are guarded."

"How about Litzenberg, Mr. Rea, who held a position in the wholesale stamp department?"

"All I will say as to that, is that Litzenberg does not owe the department a cent. On leaving the position his accounts balanced."

Mr. Litzenberg, who is a near relative of the wife of the late Vice-President Hendricks, was dismissed, it is said, from the wholesale stamp department of the Post-office some months ago. Two months ago he was reappointed to a position in the registry department by Postmaster Judd, where he at present is. A *Tribune* reporter called on P. M. Clowry, Superintendent of that division, but Mr. Clowry knew nothing of Litzenberg's past career in the post-office. His papers show that he had passed a most creditable examination before the Civil Service Board, which was certified to by the Secretary of that body. He had been in the registry division about two months, and had proved himself a first-class clerk, very attentive to business, and correct and efficient in its performance. For what reason he had been reappointed to a position in the post-office, or

whether he had been advanced in violation of the Civil Service rules, Mr. Clowry could not say.

COLONEL BOLTON'S WAR RECORD.

Colonel Bolton is something over fifty years of age, and resides at No. 109 South California Avenue with his wife and two children. He was appointed Superintendent of Second-class Mail-matter by Postmaster Palmer, January 5th, 1877. He enlisted in the Union army in 1862, having organized Bolton's Battery, which was assigned to the Second Brigade, Fourth Division, Army of the Tennessee, General Leach commanding. Afterward he was made Chief of Artillery under General Logan, being placed on the general's staff, with title of major. He participated in a number of the severest battles of the war, being regarded as a capable, efficient and brave officer, the recognition of his merit being that he was promoted to a colonelcy. Colonel Bolton went to Mississippi after the war closed and was appointed to a clerkship in the United States Circuit Court. He was active in politics, but left the State and came North because of the excitement incident to the conflict between the factions there growing out of "carpet-bag" troubles. He was in business in this city for quite a time before receiving his appointment in the post-office.

Stuart lives at No. 1,483 Fulton Street, and has a wife and several children.

WILL BE MORE CAREFUL HEREAFTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 28th.—It is intimated at the Post-office Department that probably the discovery of the embezzlement in the Chicago office, which was possible under the system of mailing second-class matter, will result in the issuing of instructions to Post-office Inspectors to make frequent comparisons of the amounts paid by the senders of matter of that class and the returns as shown by the books of those handling and receipting for it.

COLONEL BOLTON'S POPULARITY WITH HIS SUBORDINATES.

An Incident by Way of Illustration.

THERE were few developments in the Bolton embezzlement case, owing to the fact that Post-office Inspectors Kidder and Bassett have temporarily abandoned the work of examining the colonel's accounts. The last-named inspector left for Washington during the afternoon, and Kidder will leave for the interior in a day or two to look after some matters which have come under his notice. The inspectors have, by comparing the receipts which Colonel Bolton gave to the *Inter-Ocean* with his reports to the Auditor, discovered, as they say, a further deficit of \$1,100. The accounts examined extend over a single year. The receipts, which he gave to the *Tribune* and the *Times* during the last quarter of 1884 amount to \$250 more than the sum which he turned into the cashier of the post-office. "The examinations which we have made so far have merely convinced us that Colonel Bolton has been stealing in every direction," said Inspector Kidder. "We find that in some cases he took only 30 cents, and in one case \$75; but, as a rule, he would take about \$5. That is a fair average, so far as I am able to judge now."

When Inspector Bassett returns from Washington and Mr. Kidder from the country, they will settle down to the work of examining all of Bolton's accounts, which they now have in their possession. Every receipt that he has given will be compared with his private accounts, or, rather, the bank-accounts which he kept in his office, and with his reports to the Auditor. It might be stated that his books and his reports tally exactly, hence the prosecution will have to rely upon the testimony of the newspaper-managers to prove their charges. The newspaper-men will have to identify the receipts, swear to their genuineness, and also to the correctness of the amounts written upon them. The Auditor of the Post-office will show by his testimony that he only received from Colonel Bolton the amounts shown by his reports.

The inspectors are relying also upon Stuart to help them out. They believe that he will make a clean breast of his connection with Colonel Bolton, if he can be assured that he will be rewarded for doing so. Stuart's brother-in-law, a Springfield attorney, arrived in this city to look after his interests, and it is understood that he had a long and interesting conference with Inspector Kidder. What the two gentlemen agreed to do is not known, but it was rumored that they had come to some conclusion about a "squeal." The inspectors notified District Attorney Tuthill of the later discrepancies which they found in Bolton's accounts and recommended him to appear before Commissioner Hoyne and have the bonds increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000. This Colonel Tuthill said he could not do unless the inspectors would file an affidavit stating their belief that Colonel Bolton intended to leave town. The Colonel has not been seen about the Government Building since Monday evening, when his bond was signed and his release ordered by Commissioner Hoyne. It is understood that he is confined to his home, at No. 108 California Avenue, and that he is thoroughly prostrated and unable to leave his bed.

An incident illustrating Colonel Bolton's popularity with the subordinates in his office, and one which has hitherto escaped attention, is the following: When Inspector Kidder stepped into Colonel Bolton's office Monday, he confronted that gentleman, and politely informed him that he was under arrest. The colonel's face assumed an ashen hue, and for an instant he could not speak. When he recovered his power of speech, however, he began to expostulate against the action of the inspector in vigorous language. Mrs. A. G. Ayer, an employé, heard her chief, and she joined him in the attack upon the inspector. The latter was accustomed to deal with excited men, but when Mrs. Ayer jumped from her high perch, which she occupies at the public window, and strode to his side with her finger pointed at him menacingly, he involuntarily retreated behind the colonel.

"You have no right to arrest him," said Mrs. Ayer, her eyes flashing the indignation which she felt. "You have persecuted him enough already. You forced yourself into his office against his will, and pried into his private accounts without any authority or aim other than to humiliate and persecute him. Not content with doing this, you have placed detectives on his track, and they have hounded his footsteps day and night, even following him to the very threshold of his own home. You shall not arrest him now!" and the great diamonds which adorn her slender hands flashed even more fiercely than her eyes. Mrs. Ayer continued her attack upon the inspector with greater fury than ever until he left, accompanied by Colonel Bolton.

Mrs. Ayer was at one time well known in Chicago's fashionable society-circles. She is a niece, by marriage, of Herbert C. Ayer, the famous iron manufacturer, whose failure a few years ago caused such a crash in the iron world. It is said that Mrs. Ayer's private fortune was lost in that great crash. Shortly after Postmaster Judd took charge of his office, a year ago last June, he appointed Mrs. Ayer to a clerkship in the stamp department. She was clever with the pen, a fair accountant, and accurate enough in handling cash, but somehow she did not meet all the requirements of her exacting position in the stamp-department. In August Colonel Bolton agreed to take her into the second-class department, and she has been there ever since, drawing a salary of \$1,200 per year. Mrs. Ayer lives at No. 708 West Jackson Street. Her husband is still living, but he is said to be a wreck, physically and mentally.

Colonel Bolton's condition was reported to be somewhat improved yesterday, though his friends said he was still unable to leave his room. It was asserted that he was gaining courage with his returning strength, and that he was now anxious for his case to come to trial. That division of the post-office over which he recently presided is kept closed against visitors by order of the inspectors. Even the char-women, when making their

daily rounds with brooms and brushes, are denied admission to that department. Mr. Reynolds, who has temporary charge, will allow nobody to enter the place, except one or two of his assistants.—*From Chicago Inter-Ocean, Saturday, July 31st.*

CIVIL SERVICE.

THE report of the Civil Service Commission, which will be submitted, contains an account of the manner in which the Civil Service Law has been executed during the last year, and much valuable information on this important subject.

I am inclined to think that there is no sentiment more general in the minds of the people of our country than a conviction of the correctness of the principle upon which the law enforcing Civil Service Reform is based. In its present condition the law regulates only a part of the subordinate public positions throughout the country. It applies the test of fitness to the applicants for these places by means of a competitive examination, and gives a large discretion to the Commissioners as to the character of the examination and many other matters connected with its execution. Thus the rules and regulations adopted by the Commission have much to do with the practical usefulness of the statute and with the results of its application.

The people may well trust the Commission to execute the law with perfect fairness, and with as little irritation as is possible; but, of course, no relaxation of the principle which underlies it, and no weakening of the safeguards which surround it, can be expected. Experience in its administration will probably suggest an amendment of the methods of its execution, but I venture to hope that we shall never again be remitted to the system which distributes public positions purely as rewards for partisan service. Doubts may well be entertained whether our Government could survive the strain of a continuance of this system, which, upon every change of administration, inspires an immense army of claimants for office to lay siege to the patronage of government, engrossing the time of public officers with their importunities, spreading abroad the contagion of their disappointment and filling the air with the tumult of their discontent.

The allurements of an immense number of offices and places exhibited to the voters of the land, and the promise of their bestowal in recognition of partisan activity, debauch the suffrage and rob political action of its thoughtful and deliberative character. The evil would increase with the multiplication of offices consequent upon our extensions, and the mania for office-holding, growing from its indulgence, would pervade our population so generally that patriotic purpose, the support of principle, the desire for the public good and solicitude for the nation's welfare, would be nearly banished from the activity of our party contests, and cause them to degenerate into ignoble, selfish and disgraceful struggles for the possession of office and public places.

Civil Service Reform, enforced by law, came not too soon to check the progress of demoralization. One of its effects, not enough regarded, is the freedom it brings to the political action of those conservative and sober men who, in fear of the confusion and risk attending an arbitrary and sudden change in all the public offices with change of party rule, cast their ballots against such a chance.

Parties seem to be necessary and will continue to exist, nor can it be now denied that there are legitimate advantages, not disconnected with office-holding, which follow party supremacy. While partisanship continues bitter and pronounced, and supplies so much of motive to sentiment and action, it is not fair to hold public officials in charge of important trusts responsible for the best results in the performance of their duties, and yet insist that they shall rely in confidential and important places upon the work of those not only opposed to them in political affiliation, but so steeped in partisan prejudice and rancor that they have no loyalty to their charge and no desire for their success. Civil

Service Reform does not exact this, nor does it require that those in subordinate positions who fail in yielding their best service, or who are incompetent, should be retained simply because they are in place. The whining of a clerk discharged for indolence or incompetency, who, though he gain his place by the worst possible operation of the spoils system, suddenly discovers that he is entitled to protection under the sanction of Civil Service Reform, represents an idea no less absurd than the clamor of the applicant who claims the vacant position as his compensation for the most questionable party work. The Civil Service Law does not prevent the discharge of the indolent or incompetent clerk, but it does prevent supplying his place with the unfit party worker.

Thus in both the phases is seen benefit to the public service. And the people who desire good government having secured this statute, will not relinquish its benefits without protest, nor are they unmindful of the fact that its full advantages can only be gained through the complete good faith of those having its execution in charge, and this they will insist upon.

I recommend that the salaries of the Civil Service Commissioners be increased to a sum more nearly commensurate with their important duties.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND.

THE POSTAL CLERK BROTHERHOOD. Their Aims and Purposes, as Set Forth in the Constitution of the Lodge.

A COPY of the regulations under which the Brotherhood of Postal Clerks operated has found its way to the front, despite the secrecy surrounding this Order, and the *News*, through an agency of its own, is enabled to give some liberal selections therefrom. The initiatory section of the constitution is very specific in setting forth the purposes of the organization; for it says they are "For mutual aid and protection, and for a more perfect union, that we may, as a body, be the better enabled to resist encroachments made upon our rights as citizens, and our manhood as officials, by indiscriminate removals from office of any of our members without sufficient cause, and upon charges filed and fairly and fully investigated, and that we may be the better enabled to administer to the wants and necessities of sick and indigent members, and in other respects to cultivate a more fraternal feeling among our members." The initiation fee calls for \$2, one for expenses of the Grand Lodge, and the other for the benefit fund, and no person is eligible to membership who has not received a permanent appointment as a postal clerk in the railway service, and whose reputation for honesty, sobriety, and industry can be seriously assailed; and it is expressly conditioned that all persons elected members, before they can participate in the deliberations of the lodge, and before they are entitled to any of its benefits or protection, must take the oath prescribed by the constitution, and must surrender to the lodge, through its chief clerk, his resignation as postal clerk, the same to be placed in charge of a committee appointed for its safe-keeping, and under the immediate care and supervision of the Executive Committee, the same to be used by the committee under the direction of the Grand Lodge, only in case of extreme emergency and in concert and conjunction with all members of the Brotherhood. The by-laws provide, in this connection, that when a member shall die, or he shall be discharged from his position for alleged causes upon which there has been no conviction, he shall be entitled to a sum from the benevolent fund equal to an amount to be raised by an assessment of \$1 upon each member of the Brotherhood. To the Executive Committee is intrusted all the grievances of which complaint may be filed with the Grand Lodge, the members to act according to their best judgment in case of a crisis or an emergency; and they have the power, by recommendation to the Grand Lodge, of calling a convention of all the subordinate lodges on matters demanding immediate attention. The officers of the Grand Lodge are made to consist of a Grand Chief Clerk, a Second Clerk, Third Clerk, a Transfer

Clerk, and an Inside and Outside Short Stop, and their duties are defined much the same as mark the organization of other lodges. Before becoming a member of the Brotherhood the following oath is administered:

"I [giving name], of my own free will and accord, in the presence of Almighty God and this lodge [or these witnesses], do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that I will not, by word, act, sign, or deed, or in any other way, divulge the secrets of the Brotherhood of Railway Postal Clerks, nor the transaction of any business that may occur at any business meeting at which I may attend, or of which I may receive information, except it be to those whom I know to be members thereof, under the penalty of being denounced as a willful perjurer, and unworthy the confidence of all men. So help me God, and keep me steadfast."

In another part of the proceedings it is expected that "to all the by-laws, rules and regulations, we bind ourselves by the most solemn pledges of honor, uniting ourselves in the fraternal bonds of brotherly love. We pledge each other our lives, our honor, and our lasting fidelity and fealty, admonishing our brethren to be true to the principles that characterize true manhood." In several places, both in the constitution and by-laws, the surrender of the resignation is made positively obligatory, and in the recommendation of a person to membership this fact is kept studiously to the front, and, in addition, two or more of the members are required to vouch that the applicant is in every way worthy of confidence, and that he fully understands the sanctity of an oath. That an average clerk can subscribe to the above oaths, and affix his signature to the constitution and by-laws, and withal lay his resignation with the Executive Committee, and then afterward claim that he did not understand what he was doing, is a conundrum which the Brotherhood remaining firm is now trying to solve.

THE SUDDEN DEATH OF MRS. McEWEN, (COLORED).

Frightened by a Postal Inspector's Visit.

AN inquest was held yesterday by Coroner Miller on the body of the colored woman, Mrs. Thomas McEwen, who died suddenly at 638 Laurel Street. The inquest developed the fact that the woman had long been a sufferer from an affection of the heart, which finally developed into rheumatism of that organ. This caused her death. She was forty-five years of age. Thomas McEwen, the husband of the woman, is a clerk in the post-office, where he has been employed a number of years. Last week, while Inspector Finney was investigating the case of Thomas Bullitt, who was suspected of robbing the mails, he called at the house of McEwen to question him about Bullitt, his habits, etc. His visit to the house so frightened Mrs. McEwen, who imagined her husband was in trouble, that she fell to the floor overcome by her malady. She suffered a great deal, but finally got about again, though she never entirely recovered from the shock she received on that day.—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

PLEASED WITH WHAT HE HAS SEEN.

CHIEF Post-office Inspector West, of Washington, was in the city Tuesday, and left yesterday for St. Louis. He is on a tour of inspection, and expresses himself as more than pleased with the manner in which the business of the Department has been attended to in the Chicago district. It has been found necessary to make a reduction in the force of inspectors on account of the premature exhaustion of the appropriation for this branch of the service. Seventeen inspectors have been notified that their services will not be required after July 1st. Two of these, Daniel H. Pulcifer and L. A. Childs, are from this district. The vacancies caused by the transfer of Darby and Rogers to eastern points will not be filled, which reduces the number of inspectors in the Chicago district from sixteen to twelve.—*Chicago Times.*

A MAIL-BAG opened in the post-office at Kingston, N. Y., the other day, was found to contain a copperhead snake inclosed in a bag. The dangerous reptile was promptly killed.

THE ABUSE OF THE MAILS.

THE abuse of the mails by those who seek the money of others through appeals to cupidity, ignorance, or folly, is, under the present laws, very considerable, despite the efforts of the Department to suppress it; and it is due to the cause of good morals, the dignity of the law, and the welfare of society, that adequate means should be provided to purge the offense. It is especially incumbent on the Government, because it is the facilities it has established which, in great part, enable the toils of the vicious to be spread over so large a territory and expose the weak to the arts of the wicked from afar. The Press and the mail combine to give long range to the weapons of ingenious rascality and easy collection of the fruits of false pretense. The laws ought not to suffer an institution whose most beneficent service is to disseminate information and facilitate intercourse to become the swift messenger of vice. As the statutes now stand, it is a matter of doubt what is the measure of authority in the Department, what the subjects to which it extends, and what the protection its orders afford to its officers. Thousands of schemes are shown on the records and papers of the Department, and new ones are continually brought to light, by which immense sums of money in the aggregate are wrongfully despoiled from people generally the least able to part with it without distress from its loss, and who should have protection. The evil is great, and the remedy ought neither to be lagging nor timorous. The Governmental duty is not to tease or annoy the authors, but to suppress all such abuses of its mails.

In my judgment the Congress should be invited to consider the propriety of express definition and prohibition of these offenses against the service, and of authorizing the Department, after inquiry upon notice by mail to the parties interested, not only to forbid the delivery of registered letters, and the payment of money orders and postal notes, to all persons or companies engaged in such prohibited schemes, and to all who shall aid or assist their conduct or any attempted evasion of the law, but to forbid the carriage of letters addressed to such persons or companies, or the agents of them, while pursuing the illegal courses, and to deny the benefit of the pound rates of postage—granted to cheapen useful information to the people—to all newspapers containing their advertisements; and also to authorize the publication, as a privileged and protected communication, in the *Official Guide*, of the names and descriptions of all such schemes, after such condemnation by the Department, for the information of the public.

Under the present law the inquiry is, or may be, *ex parte*, and a necessary risk of error attaches. It will be enough for justice if provision for a temporary suspension of payments of money orders and postal notes, and delivery of registered letters, upon a *prima facie* case, is made, accompanied by the other provisions suggested.

WILLIAM F. VILAS,
Postmaster-general.

SUPPRESSING AN INSURRECTION.

In the early days of Michigan, when many of the post-offices were carried in the hats of the postmasters, a postmaster in Livingston County was out in the woods one day and lost several letters from his hat. A day or two after that a pioneer named Bailey came to his house and inquired if there was any mail for him.

"There was a letter for you, Bill, but I've lost it," was the reply.

"When?"

"T'other day in the woods."

"Well, I want that letter."

"But ye can't git it. I'm sorry I lost it, but that's all I can do."

"Then I'll have you removed from office!"

"Look a-here, Bill Bailey," said the official, as he began to skin off his coat. "I was appointed to hold this post-office, and I'm bound to do it. As a private citizen I have no hard feelings agin you; as postmaster I lost a letter

writ to you by your sister in York State; as a representative of this great and awful Government I want to say to you that if I hear two more words of sass from your throat I'll suppress the insurrection by hanging you to the nearest tree, so help me God, sir!"

Mr. Bailey was, however, permitted to make a hunt in the woods for his letter, and he found it, and the insurrection was suppressed.
—*Detroit Free Press*.

BLACKLISTED CLERKS.

A Record of the Membership of the Organization that is Trying to Boss the Postmaster-general.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., July 10th.—Following is the membership of the Postal Clerks' Brotherhood as it was when the Grand Lodge met here recently, and all signed the Constitution with their eyes wide open, and besides, by their votes, gave it their apparently hearty encouragement:

C. M. Smith,	Alex. Monroe,
J. H. Gray,	George Stern,
C. M. Frazier,	S. G. Sparks,
G. M. Dedrich,	F. G. Ketchum,
R. E. Miller,	T. E. Spong,
J. H. Tipton,	J. M. Hamilton,
Tim Miller,	W. S. Harrison,
J. A. Humphreys,	W. R. Ratcliff,
W. E. Livezey,	J. A. Jouson,
W. A. Conners,	W. J. Purdy,
W. P. Batchelder,	H. Gymer,
C. G. Unversaw,	S. S. Simpson,
F. E. Tritt,	C. C. Meade,
J. A. McCartney,	John Torrence,
O. P. Elice,	Otto T. Schoen,
E. H. Evans,	Fred. Steinbaur,
W. C. Griffin,	H. B. Mason,
A. E. Barrett,	C. M. Orr,
R. H. Moltimore,	Louis Kern,
T. J. Welch,	R. T. Shimer,
George Wenst,	R. Marshall,
Charles Stewart,	R. J. Finney,
M. F. Wells,	C. C. Mathews,
O. P. Schron,	J. J. Traub,
T. C. Rutledge,	H. T. Thompson,
C. B. Swools,	S. R. McMeans,
R. T. Robb,	J. J. Stanley,
W. L. Current,	J. T. C. Watson,
G. P. Wright,	W. A. Brown,
J. E. Tingle,	W. F. Conery,
C. M. Dubois,	W. F. Kavanagh,
A. J. Ball,	L. W. Furnas,
W. C. Mitchell,	F. C. Kline,
George Markle,	George Hanvey,
W. H. Talbot,	W. O. McKinney,
C. M. Anthony,	C. S. Halderman,
C. F. Dashiell,	T. P. Vance,
William Porter,	L. A. Wolf,
C. W. Parker,	F. W. Makepeace,
L. L. Littler,	J. W. Bishop,
W. L. Boid,	C. B. Fosdick,
C. R. Vincent,	W. G. Glosbener,
D. S. Bember,	J. T. Jeffeff,
David Bragg,	B. S. Campbell,
J. H. Ballard,	O. Sullivan,
Charles Boaz,	Burling Boaz,
T. E. Ferguson,	W. M. Porter,
Frank Bowers,	

A member of the Brotherhood reports that big white envelopes from the Department were received to-day for several postal clerks, and the impression is that these gentlemen have squared themselves with the enraged Vilas.—*San Francisco Post*.

THE LAFAYETTE POST-OFFICE.

Mr. Ward's Experience in Securing the Place for Mr. Ruger.

"I NEVER had such a time in politics in all my life," said Representative Ward to the *Journal* correspondent to-day, "as I had in bringing about the suspension of Postmaster Sample, at Lafayette, and the appointment of John B. Ruger. It was not a question of man, or fitness. It was a question of politics. Mr. Sample is one of the best and most respectable citizens Lafayette has. This I told President Cleveland repeatedly; and at no time did I say a word against Mr. Sample, for I had indorsed his appointment and was his friend, and am yet. I told the President that the Lafayette Post-office was the most important Federal position in my district, and that, from a political standpoint, it was a shame that a Republican was kept in it. Mr. Sample had only been sixteen months in his office, and I urged with all my power that there was too much of his term before him to permit his serving it out. The Democrats throughout the district were demanding a change, and I stood in a ridiculous light while Mr. Sample continued to fill the place."

"Did you file charges of offensive partisanship against Mr. Sample?" was asked.

"No," replied Judge Ward, "I did not; others did, however. I did not allege at any time that Mr. Sample's politics were offensively bitter, or that his Republicanism interfered with his efficiency as a postmaster or position as a good citizen in the community. I did tell the President repeatedly, though, that he was a Republican, and that that fact should be sufficient to warrant his suspension and the appointment of a Democrat. The suspension of Mr. Sample, therefore, casts no reflection upon him in any way, and he is just as popular as ever: Mr. Ruger is one of the oldest and best citizens of Lafayette. The praise that can be uttered of Mr. Sample can be spoken truthfully of his successor. The good qualities of Mr. Ruger did not, however, hasten the suspension of Mr. Sample. As I have said, it was a question of politics that brought about the change, and it was only after a continuous fight for six months or more that I effected it. I hope I may never have such a struggle again."—*Indianapolis Journal*.

POSTAL FIGURES.

THE annual report of Edwin O. Fowler, Chief of the Appointment Division of the Post-office Department, for the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1886, is summarized as follows: Number of post-offices established during the year, 3,482; increase during the year, 1,361. Number of post-offices discontinued during the year, 1,120. Whole number of post-offices June 30th, 1886, 53,614; increase during the year, 2,362. Number of Presidential offices, 2,265; increase during the year, 32. Number of fourth-class offices, 51,349; increase during the year, 2,326. Appointments have been made during the year as follows: On resignations and commissions expired, 9,112; increase during the year, 2,908. On removals and suspensions, 9,566; increase during the year, 8,756. On deaths of Postmasters, 587; increase during the year, 175. On establishment of new post-offices, 3,482, increase during the year, 1,361. Total number of appointments made during the year, 22,747; increase during the year, 13,200. The total number of money-order offices at the close of the year was 7,356, a net increase of 227 over the previous year. Of these, Illinois holds the largest number, 590; Iowa next, with 522; New York, 419; Ohio, 406; Pennsylvania, 402; Michigan, 344; Kansas, 342; Indiana, 315; Missouri, 313; and Wisconsin, 217. The greatest increase in any State is 25 in Kansas.

RAILWAY POSTAL CLERKS.

THE risks which necessarily attend the performance of duty by the persons engaged in the railway mail service are obvious, and upon the Departmental records their consequences are painfully manifest.

It is apparent that, by general contribution of a trifling sum, 50 cents per month, perhaps, and prudent care of it, a blessed though a moderate provision might be afforded to the dependents of clerks who die in the service, and to those who are disabled. The collection and management of such a fund is due to this body of men from the Government and at the cost of the Government. It need involve no more than a superintendent, with perhaps a single clerk, besides the cost of blanks and stationery. A fund of a kindred nature is now maintained, and similar provision frequent in other countries.

I respectfully ask that you recommend with urgency to the Congress to enact a law making suitable provision of this nature for these well-deserving servants of the people.

WILLIAM F. VILAS,
Postmaster-general.

THE business of the Burlington (Vt.) Post-office for the year ending June 30th amounted to 1,425,850 pieces delivered, and 719,408 collected. The receipts were \$29,399.74. It is a large increase over the business for the previous year.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Only 22,747 Appointments Made During the Year.

THE annual report of Edwin C. Fowler, chief of the Appointment Division of the Post-office Department, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1886, has been made and details furnished for publication. The appointments which this division has charge of are those of postmasters only. The report is summarized as follows: Number of post-offices established during year, 3,482; increase during year, 1,361; number of post-offices discontinued during year, 1,120; increase during year, 234; net increase over previous year, 2,362; increase during year, 1,127; whole number of post-offices June 30, 1886, 53,614; increase during year, 2,362; number of presidential offices, 2,265; increase during year, 32; number of fourth-class offices, 51,349; increase during year, 2,326.

Appointments have been made during the year as follows: On resignations and commissions expired, 9,112—increase during the year, 2,908; on removals and suspensions, 9,566—increase during the year, 8,756; on deaths of postmasters, 587—increase during the year, 175; on establishment of new post-offices, 3,482—increase during the year, 1,361; total number of appointments made during the year, 22,747—increase during the year, 13,200.

Of the establishment of new post-offices, the six New England States had 51, with 1 discontinuance; the five Middle States and the District of Columbia had 261 establishments, and no discontinuances; the twelve Southern States and Indian Territory had 1,444 new offices; the Pacific Slope 114, and 8 discontinued; the remaining States and Territories of the West and Northwest 523 new establishments, and 23 offices discontinued. Virginia heads the list of States, with 197 new offices.

The entire number of Presidential offices is 2,265, an increase of 32 during the year. Of these, the largest number is in New York, 216; Illinois next, 182; Pennsylvania, 158; Ohio, 133; Massachusetts and Iowa, 121 each.

The total number of money-order offices at the close of the year was 7,356, a net increase of 227 over the previous year. Of these, Illinois holds the largest number, 590; Iowa next, with 522; New York, 496; Ohio, 468; Pennsylvania, 402; Michigan, 344; Kansas, 342; Indiana, 315; Missouri, 213, and Wisconsin, 271. The greatest increase in any State is 25, in Kansas.

A MOUNTAIN POST-OFFICE.

The Letters that Reach it, and the Postmistress who Reads Them.

A GENTLEMAN who spent a Summer traveling in the Rocky Mountains gives the following account of a little, gray-haired old lady he found living alone in a log cabin of two rooms far up the slope of a most desolate mountain. The cabin was a mile from any other house, and the nearest town was ten miles distant. On the shelves back of a little pine counter in a corner of the room were cans of tomatoes, peas, and corn, a few bars of soap, boxes of matches, and cans of condensed milk.

"I keep a little grocery store, and thread, and needles, and pins, and such things, bein's I'm postmistress," said the old lady, in the cheeriest of voices.

"Postmistress?" queried the traveler.

"Oh, yes," was the reply.

"Where are the letters and the office?"

"Here," and she smilingly took a cigar-box down from a shelf, and opening it, showed the man a dozen or more letters bearing evidence of having been handled many times.

"The mail comes two times a week, Wednesdays and Saturdays, but most of the boys come 'round Saturdays."

"The boys?" asked the stranger.

"Yes; the prospectors and miners scattered all 'round over the hills. There's a good many of 'em, but they don't write much nor get many letters. Still, the post-office is comp'ny for me. It brings all the boys to see me once in a while. Are you going up by the Lone Star Mine?"

"No, I think not," said the traveler.

"No? Well, if you was, there's a postal

here for Jack Downing. It says on it that he is to come to Denver right off, and I'd like to send it to him as soon as I can. I always read the postals. The boys don't care, and I get real lonesome sometimes."

Just then a miner came along and asked:

"Is Bill Heffler's *Weekly* come yet from Denver?"

"Yes," was the reply, "but you tell Bill I'll send it up to-morrow by the stage-driver. I ain't done readin' it myself yet. Bill won't care; he never reads it until Sunday, nohow. If you see Silas Sharpe you tell him that there's a postal here from his wife, and the baby's got the whoopin' cough, but it ain't a-whoopin' yet, an' his wife don't think it'll have it hard."

"Any letters for any of the boys up our way?"

"No, but there's one here for somebody named J. B. Ryder. Know any such man?"

"No."

"Neither do I. It's in a thin envelope, and I can see by holdin' it up to the light that it's signed 'Your own Sarah,' so I guess he's married, or about to be. If he don't come 'round soon, I do'n't but I'll open it and get the address, and send it back to 'his own Sarah,' and tell her that he ain't here."

When the man had gone the old lady said to the traveler:

"Yes, the post-office is a sight of comp'ny, speshly when there's lots o' papers and postals comin' and goin'. Then sometimes I write and read letters for some that can't write. Now, here's a letter for John Brice, just come in. He ought to have it right off."

"But it has been opened," said the traveler.

"O, la, yes! I opened it myself. I wrote the letter it's in answer to, and I'll have to read this to John Brice, anyhow. He can't read writin'. And I felt real anxious to know if his letter got to his wife—it had a \$10 bill in it. Here comes Bob Haight. Poor fellow! I declare, if I was alone I'd shut up the post-office and hide some place; for it just makes my heart ache to tell that poor creetur that there ain't no letter yit for him. He's been a comin' for weeks lookin' for a letter from home, and none comes. I'm mighty afraid there's trouble there. Well, well, I'll just have to tell him they ain't no letter, and then chirk him up the best I can. Poor fellow!"—*Denver Tribune*.

MAIL ROBBERY.

Post-office Inspectors Looking for the Thief who Stole a Cincinnati Pouch.

THE post-office inspectors are just now agitated over a mysterious mail robbery, the details of which they have thus far been unable to gather up. About noon on Monday, while a laborer employed at Norton's Mills, near the Madison Street viaduct, was engaged in unloading coal from a car which stood on the siding, he found an empty mail-pouch in the car. It had been cut open and evidently rifled of its contents. It was what is known in the postal service as a No. 2 pouch, and the tag attached to it showed that it had come from Cincinnati. It was turned over to the local mail-agent at the Union Depot, and from him found its way into the hands of the inspectors, who are now working on the case. Thus far no clew as to the perpetrator of the robbery has been found. It is clear to Inspector Bassett, who has the case in charge, that the pouch was brought from Cincinnati over the Chicago, Lafayette and Cincinnati line, on the train which arrived here at 6:55 p.m. Saturday. It was marked for transfer to the Milwaukee and St. Paul's road, on the McGregor division. The mail was transferred in closed wagons from the Illinois Central to the Union Depot, and it is claimed that the robbery could not possibly have been committed *en route*. The supposition is that immediately after the mail was deposited on the trucks in the depot for conveyance to the proper mail-cars, some clever thief, aided by the darkness and the carelessness of the person whose duty it was to guard the property, succeeded in stealing one of the pouches and getting away with it without being discovered. After cutting it open and securing the con-

tents, he presumably threw the pouch into an empty freight-car and escaped.

The value of the stolen mail has not yet been ascertained. The inspectors are endeavoring to conduct a secret investigation, fearing that publicity will lessen their chances of clearing up the mystery. Up to a late hour last night none of the missing mail had been found and no trace of the thief had been discovered.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

HEAVY MAIL ROBBERY.

Pouch Containing Money and Valuables to the Extent of \$80,000 Disappears.

ST. LOUIS, July 30th.—The post-office inspectors of the postal division between this city and New York are now looking for the author of the first important mail robbery on that division. The theft occurred nearly a month ago, but the amount of money lost was so large that the inspectors have taken unusual precautions to keep it secret. A postal clerk who knows the facts, however, has made them public, and they are as follows: The postal car which left New York for St. Louis, June 28th, had among its mail a pouch, No. 353, for St. Louis, which contained about \$20,000 in money, drafts, bonds, checks and other valuable papers and property, valued at \$80,000. At Pittsburg the far West mail was transferred, passing into the hands of Chief Clerk James Fernald.

The train, as usual, made a very short stop at that place, and also, as usual, the chief clerk signed a receipt for the various pouches without inspecting them, the time being too short to do so. During the run to Indianapolis he found that he had receipted for the St. Louis pouch, which was not in his possession, and which probably had not been turned over to him with the rest of the mail. He immediately reported the robbery, and the detectives have been working on the case ever since, without as yet having made any arrests. It is believed that the pouch was stolen between New York and Pittsburg by one of a number of clerks who have since then left the service.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE.

SEVERAL years ago, M. C. Anderson left South Carolina, and settled near Centre, Ala., and gets his mail at the Centre Post-office. He left a friend, J. S. Rodgers, in South Carolina, who was to send him some money when collected, and among the events of time there was also a M. C. Anderson from Tennessee, who settled near Centre, and gets mail at the Centre Post-office. This M. C. Anderson left a J. S. Rogers in Tennessee, who was to collect some money and send to him at Centre. A few days ago a registered letter arrived at Centre Post-office, for M. C. Anderson. M. C. Anderson from South Carolina called and got it. He saw it was from J. S. Rogers, and was satisfied; opened it and saw there was \$15—this being the amount he was expecting. He went home; but on reading the letter, he saw his mistake. It was for the other M. C. Anderson, and from the other J. S. Rogers, and it was the other \$15. The letter and money were turned over to the P. M., who delivered it to its true owner. Another happening of the kind has never been known, and probably never will be. This occurrence plainly shows that the directions on letters should be plain, and all parties should bear in mind that mail is often lost in this way, and then officials are blamed when they are innocent.

TO STIR UP THE POSTMASTERS.

THE Secret-Service Department of the Government is engaged in working up evidence against postmasters who are proprietors of newspapers, who are alleged to be guilty of violating the law providing against transmission of circulars through the mails advertising gift enterprises and lotteries. An enterprising wholesale house in the State of New York has been advertising a gift enterprise and sending its circulars for publication to newspapers whose editors or proprietors are Postmasters.

The United States Mail.

MONTHLY.

ONE YEAR, - - - - -	\$2.00
SIX MONTHS, - - - - -	1.00
SINGLE COPIES, - - - - -	20 CENTS.
TEN COPIES, - - - - -	ONE DOLLAR.

JOHN H. PATTERSON, EDITOR.

Remittances should be made to the order of THE UNITED STATES MAIL, and should be by money order, postal note, or registered letter.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL is the only journal in this country, of legitimate circulation, depending entirely upon its merits for public patronage, devoted to the interests of the postal service.

Entered at the Post-office at New York for transmission through the mails at second-class postal rates.

AUGUST, 1886.

CHICAGO, 198 LA SALLE STREET.
NEW YORK, 53, 55 AND 57 PARK PLACE.

THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

THE meeting of the National Executive Committee at the office of THE UNITED STATES MAIL on Tuesday, July 20th, was a pleasant and harmonious one. There were eight members present in person and six by proxy, or fourteen in all, which was two more than a quorum. There had been twenty-four members of the Committee, but by the retirement of the members from Arkansas and Mississippi, there are now but twenty-two.

In our published report of the proceedings which appeared on page 155 of our July issue, among the names of those who sent in proxies we failed to include that of Mr. FRANK H. DANIEL, of Franklin Falls, N. H. We had it in our pocket at the time, but forgot to produce it.

The business of the Committee was exceedingly important, in every respect, and we have no doubt but that its results will be for the general good of the cause.

The Temporary Committee appointed by the February Convention for the formation of a Postmasters' Mutual Benefit Association was declared *dissolved*, and all action by PERRY RUSSELL as unwarranted and "without leave, license or law"; and it was felt that he had brought the movement into such disrepute that nothing but a convention specially convened in the interest of that enterprise would resurrect it, and so it was unanimously resolved to call one for that object, which was done.

The idea of the purchase of THE UNITED STATES MAIL by the Committee was decided to be objectionable. We must say, however, that we made our offer in good faith, and shall be ready at any time to make the transfer whenever it may be deemed advisable. The moving cause of our offer was the fear that some might think we were making too much money out of this paper, and we thought that if they were confident we had a bonanza in it, we would part with it for a reasonable compensation. We were at no time unaware of the fact that there were serious impediments in the way of the Committee taking charge of it, but we were determined not to block the passage if there was any desire to continue it. Though THE UNITED STATES MAIL is our own creation and we are much attached to it, yet we will gladly part with it if the good of the cause can be promoted by so doing.

The next question to consider was a plan by which at least \$5,000 could be raised to prosecute the work of the Committee before Congress. That sum was deemed the smallest that would meet the demands that would be made

upon it. A committee of five was appointed to visit Washington at the meeting of Congress and to remain there until the Postmasters' Bill became a law. In connection with the expenses of the Committee in that particular, there are other things for which money is required. It is necessary, now and then, to prepare documentary matter to be sent to members of Congress by mail, and also to newspapers. Bills for printing, stationery, postage, etc., in an enterprise of this kind, must be large if efficient work is done and if satisfactory results are accomplished. The expenses of the Committee in coming to Chicago have been ordered paid, and it is right and proper that they should be; for no liberal, generous-minded man would wish those gentlemen to go so deeply into their pockets as to pay their own expenses when upon such a mission as that. There will be an outlay for printing, postage, etc., to get ready for the September Convention, and all those expenditures, as well as all others, must come from the funds of the Committee, so that \$5,000 is considered a low estimate for the work in hand. Postmasters who have been to Washington for a week or two at a time need not be informed as to the money necessary to live in that city.

But how was the necessary \$5,000 to be raised? Not by an appeal for voluntary donations, for that had been tried and proved a failure, that is, comparatively so; and we knew that, if another call was made for funds, the same generous souls who responded before would do so again, and a new plan was absolutely essential.

We had thought the matter over and canvassed the subject in every light, and came to the conclusion that we would have to come to the rescue and share with the Committee the profits on the publication of our paper, and we proposed that if the National Committee would issue an appeal to postmasters who are not now subscribers to THE UNITED STATES MAIL to subscribe for one year, at regular rates, \$2, we would give \$1 of each and every subscription so received to the fund of the Committee, and it was accepted. It was regarded as a solution of the problem.

The Chairman of the National Committee was empowered to fill all vacancies that may now exist among the members of that body, and the wish was frequently expressed that all who are now upon it, but who take no interest in the success of the cause, *resign at once*, and thus make way for the appointment of those who will. That Committee should be made up of *working* members, but there are several who are now upon it who have never even written a postal card in furtherance of the cause. They are not the men we want.

We need a member from Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Arkansas.

It would be a most excellent idea to have three committeemen from every State, and we propose to ask for it at the meeting in September. There ought to be separate organizations in every State, and if we had them we would then be fully equipped for business.

There has been no call for a meeting of the National Committee in September, and we do not know that there will be, but if there should be a quorum in attendance upon the Convention, it would only be the work of a moment to issue one. We hope they will be on hand.

Taken altogether, the Committee's deliberations were marked by prudence and wisdom. The meeting will undoubtedly be the means of furthering the cause of the third and fourth class postmasters.

It adjourned at about seven o'clock in the evening, subject to the call of the President.

THE NEXT CONVENTION.

A POSTMASTERS' CONVENTION has been called to convene in Chicago on Tuesday, September 14th. Its primary object will be to inaugurate a movement looking to the organization of a Postmasters' Mutual Benefit Association, and from letters received upon the subject, we anticipate a good attendance.

It is not likely that so early a date would have been fixed upon, had it not have been that the Chicago Exposition will open on the 6th of September, and by having the convention during the Exposition we will get the benefit of greatly reduced rates of railroad fare.

While the formation of a Mutual Benefit Association is the moving cause of the convention, yet it is not unlikely that many questions pertaining to the interests of third and fourth class postmasters will be brought up for consideration. It is scarcely necessary for us to outline the work of the convention, but there are many things it can do toward bettering the condition of the service and of their brethren as a body.

We would like to have every postmaster who proposes to attend the convention come here with carefully considered views upon all points where he thinks reforms or changes would be beneficial to the service, to the public and to the postmaster, and give the convention the benefit of them. Let them prepare their resolutions in advance, and, if they are not adepts in the art of public speaking, we suggest that they bring their speeches with them *written out* and read them to the convention. We think a most serious blunder was committed at the February convention by the adoption of a rule that all resolutions be referred to appropriate committees without debate. That is often done, but it is an unwise action. If a resolution is introduced upon, for example, some phase of the money-order business, the inference would be that the mover has some pertinent observations to make in support of it, and if he has, then the entire convention should receive the benefit of them. What he says might set it to thinking, and by the time the committee to which it has been referred is ready to report, five hundred other men might also have some well-defined views upon the same subject. It is never wise or prudent to throttle discussion.

We say, then, come to the convention, and if you are not satisfied with your ability in extempore speaking, bring your views upon paper and read them to your brethren.

We think our friends will admit the importance of the convention, especially at this time. Congress has adjourned, and the Postmasters' Bill failed to become a law. There is no question, however, but that it will come up early in December and go through with a whirl. Everything points to that fact. Even some who are lukewarm in its support acknowledge that its passage is sure and certain at that time. Political policy is all that kept it back heretofore. One party was afraid, and the other dare not, and both of them are cowards to deny you your just rights, and we have less respect for them now than we ever had before. We sometimes think that politics is a curse to the country, and that we would be better off, very much so, if both parties would go to the dogs; but they exist, and we are compelled to submit to their arbitrary rulings. In your case, you failed to receive proper treatment because they were afraid to go before the people for support after having voted away \$800,000 to increase your salaries to what they should be. They are both convinced that you deserve more liberal allowances, but as the Congressional elections were at hand, they did not con-

sider it wise or prudent to vote the way they thought.

Now, as the Postmasters' Bill, No. 7,474, was only given its second reading in the House and Senate, we want to see it *perfected* before it is brought up in December, especially in the interest of fourth-class postmasters. If any amendments are necessary, they should be considered and approved by the convention before they are injected into the Bill, and the way to do that is to attend the convention. That Bill should be perfectly constructed before it is offered for passage, so that after it shall have become a law, it will be regarded as the best that could have been done. It is not expected that it will satisfy *everybody*, but that it will be of vast benefit to thousands of worthy men cannot be denied. It increases the commission for the transaction of the money-order business; it gives to third-class post-offices an allowance for rent, light, fuel and clerk-hire, and the first \$100 instead of the first \$50 to fourth-class offices.

The third-class postmaster can surely have nothing to complain of if he is placed upon an equality with his brethren of the first and second, and that is what this Bill accomplishes. He can ask for no more and should have no less, but we hope no one will attempt to make the measure retroactive. Fourth-class postmasters could scarcely hope for an allowance for rent, light or fuel where their offices are run in connection with some other business, for it is considered that a post-office is of itself a sufficient attraction to a merchant to make its possession desirable and valuable, and, that under such circumstances, it could scarcely be expected that the Government would make any provision for the expense of conducting it, and we think we are entirely safe in saying that there is no possible hope for an allowance for rent unless the office is run separate and independent from any other business enterprise.

There are many fourth-class offices, however, that are separating offices, and a large amount of extra work is thus thrown upon them, and for which little or no allowance is made by the Department. It must be said, though, that the Department is not to blame for this state of affairs, as the funds placed at its disposal by Congress for that purpose are inadequate to meet the demands of the service, and the result is that there are few, if any, offices that are allowed all they ought to be for that purpose. The Postmaster-general makes his estimates every year for each department of the postal service, and asks for what he thinks ought to be allowed, but Congress was never known to grant his requests in full, and the result is that a skimpy policy has to be enforced, even in regard to expenditures for clerk-hire in first and second class offices, and, in many instances, to the detriment of the service. There is scarcely a second-class postmaster in the country who is allowed his entire expense in the matter of clerk-hire. Take for example, Mr. JOHN A. CHILDS, the efficient postmaster at Evanston, Ill. His is a second-class office and is one of the most thoroughly conducted in the country. The Government is supposed to pay all of his office expenses, and yet he pays out of his own pocket \$400 per annum for clerk-hire *more than he is allowed by the Department*. He does it simply because his patrons cannot be properly served upon the amount designated by the Department.

We refer to these matters to show the general tendency of Congress to make inadequate appropriations for the postal service, and, to impress upon our friends of the third and fourth class offices that if they would have a

remedy provided, they must take action looking to that end; and we know of no better plan than to assemble together in convention, to compare notes, to formulate resolutions expressive of your views and sentiments, and to see that Congress is advised of them. It might be that some relief could be obtained by incorporating a provision in our Bill now in the House whereby separating offices are granted allowances according to the work performed. If it can be done, it would certainly be a step in the right direction, and we hope it can be. We say, then, let fourth-class postmasters who are interested in that clause attend the convention and look after their interests.

As the one person who is responsible for the first convention, who worked for its success, and who has done all he could since that time to further what was then attempted, he begs that postmasters will each and all do their duty individually, and aid in compelling Congress to grant them the relief so long denied them. The most efficacious method to bring about that result is *unity of effort*, and the next convention will be a power in that respect.

A WORD TO SUBSCRIBERS.

It will be noted elsewhere that an arrangement has been made with the National Committee that, in order to assist it in raising funds to carry on the work intrusted to it, out of every \$2 we receive for a subscription to THE UNITED STATES MAIL, \$1 will be given to the Committee. In furtherance of that project the Committee will issue an appeal to postmasters who are not now subscribers to lend their aid to the movement by sending in their subscriptions. It is possible that the appeal of the Committee may appear in this issue, but of that we cannot now say, as it is proposed to send it out in circular form.

We wish, however, to address a word to our present subscribers and take this occasion to do so:

You are all equally interested in this movement. It is for your general benefit. The good it will accomplish will not be for a day or a month, but for years to come. All third and fourth class postmasters are fully advised as to the inequality of pay allowed for their services. One month in possession of a post-office impresses that fact most pointedly. Through the personal efforts of the editor of this paper a convention was held last February to take action in regard to these matters, and a National Committee was selected to carry forward the work inaugurated by the convention. It is scarcely necessary to recite the details of this movement, as you all nobly and generously responded to the call upon you; but there are those all around you who have literally done *nothing*! They have not raised a finger or contributed one dime toward the good of the cause. They have been appealed to time and again. Circulars calling for assistance have been sent to them, and many sample copies of THE UNITED STATES MAIL have been placed before them, and yet nothing appears to touch their hearts or their pockets. *We must have their help!* In this dilemma we appeal to you most earnestly to help us out. You are in close proximity to them. You often meet them face to face. *You know them well.* You can reach them when the National Committee cannot. You can exert an influence over them no one else can. Twenty words from you will do far more good than a hundred circulars we can issue.

We ask you, then, in the interest of our common cause, to immediately secure us one, two or three subscribers from among the postmasters in your neighborhood, and thus be the

means of raising the expense-fund of the committee to a sum sufficient to effect substantial results. If each subscriber whose name is now upon our books would send two subscriptions, the National Committee would be instantly supplied with all the money it would need next Winter.

You have stood by us in the past. *You did your duty*, but we ask you to show your interest still further by urging your neighbors to do theirs. It is unkind and unfair for a few to furnish all the money and perform all the labor while the benefits to be derived flow to all alike.

We ask your further co-operation.

POLITICAL POSTMASTERS.

A POSTMASTER writes us to inquire whether we think he would be safe, in view of the President's recent order to office-holders, to attend a State Democratic Convention, and we write him *not to go*.

We are one of those who believe that the President is a thoroughly honest man; that he has no concealments, and that what he says and what he writes, *he means*. We do not believe he has issued an order or performed an act for political effect, but that in everything he has done, his controlling motive has been the good of the people; and when, therefore, he requests office-holders to abstain from political work, he means it, and to our notion an attendance upon a State Convention as a delegate would be a violation of the *spirit* of his recent order.

If the Democratic party will accept the leadership of the President it will grow in public favor, confidence and esteem.

SENATOR WILSON became so impressed with the fact that third-class postmasters were not fairly treated by the Government, that he introduced a Bill into the Senate constructed according to his own views, in which he makes certain allowances for rent, etc., which was considered by the Post-office Committee and recommended for passage. It was not, however, acted upon by the Senate. We have not the particulars at this writing but have asked for them and may receive them in time for this issue. Well, it is working. The seed is being sown.

A FRIEND who seems to place some stress upon our services in behalf of third and fourth class postmasters has most kindly made us a present of a beautiful pair of scissors eight inches in length for use upon our editorial desk. The blades are silver-plated and the handle gold-plated, and, taken as a whole, we have no doubt but that it is the handsomest implement of the kind in any newspaper office in America. The only disagreeable feature of the affair is, that we are positively denied the pleasure of using the *name* of the donor in making our acknowledgments. We tender him our most grateful and heartfelt thanks.

POSTMASTERS who want to make some extra money should solicit subscribers for the publications of the Frank Leslie Publishing House, of New York, especially for the *Illustrated Newspaper*, the *Popular Monthly*, and the *Sunday Magazine*. Liberal commissions are allowed.

Now that your Congressman has returned to the bosom of his constituents, it would be a most excellent idea to fill him full in relation to the Postmasters' Bill. Give it to him.

THE MUTUAL BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

THE February Convention meant well when it sanctioned the scheme of a Postmasters' Mutual Benefit Association, but unfortunately it was intrusted to six persons, five of whom took no interest in it and the sixth was totally unfitted to arrange the preliminaries of so great an enterprise. The five we refer to were all good men, but our understanding is that none of them had ever given the subject of life insurance any investigation, and the sixth hadn't brains enough to investigate anything above and beyond a plate of hash.

So far as we are personally concerned, we had nothing to do with the first effort in this direction, and we will have nothing to do with the second, that is, in the formation of the enterprise. We believe in its importance and are impressed with its usefulness, but we have no knowledge whatever of life insurance or of mutual benefit associations, and do not consider ourselves capable of engaging in such a work. None but experienced men should be selected to inaugurate this movement. We have them in our ranks, and they are the persons to come forward and take the lead.

In order to have this company incorporated under the laws of Illinois, it will be necessary for two hundred persons to agree in writing to take out a policy therein, provided it is so incorporated; but we do not favor any *organization* unless ONE THOUSAND postmasters agree in advance to insure in case of incorporation. If that number will so signify their purpose, then the success of the movement will be assured before anything is done toward the formation of such an association, and its membership would quickly run up to five thousand. One thousand *advance agreements to insure* would inspire confidence, and nobody would then be afraid to join it for fear of failure to complete the organization. Not a dime should be taken from any man until these thousand men come forward and say they will take hold of it.

To test the matter, let every postmaster or his assistant who will join such an association sit down and copy off the following letter and send it to us by first mail.

Post Office.....
County.....
State.....

JOHN H. PATTERSON, Chicago, Ill.

The undersigned hereby agrees to take out a policy in the Postmasters' Mutual Benefit Association provided one thousand persons *will agree in advance* to join it, and provided, also, that the initiation fee will not be more than \$5, and that no call will be made for any money until the charter shall have been issued.

Very Respectfully,
Name.....

Now, here is a plain business proposition. There is no opportunity for failure; there will be no taking of the money of postmasters and giving nothing in return; there will be nothing problematical, but, on the other hand, it will be as sure as any human calculation can make it.

We should say, however, that this is exclusively our own idea. We have not been prompted to it by any one, but it is the result of thinking how the scheme may be a real success and a blessing to those who embark in it. Our desire is simply to prevent mistakes and blunders and to *protect* postmasters from a liability to invest in an enterprise where there will be no returns.

So far as we are personally concerned we may say that we do not carry a dollar of life insurance, and never have, but we would gladly join this association if its organization

is consummated; but the only way is to put the matter to a *test* and see whether postmasters themselves desire it. If they do, then the addressing to us of such a letter as we have indicated above will be proof positive. In no event will we turn these agreements over to the Committee having the matter in charge unless the requisite number, one thousand, shall have been received. We appreciate our responsibility in this matter and propose to do all we can to make the enterprise a success; but we are also fully determined to protect our friends from the perpetration of any mistakes.

GET YOUR MONEY BACK.

ONE of the resolutions adopted at the late meeting of the National Committee was to the effect that PERRY RUSSELL should refund the money to persons from whom he had wrongfully collected it in connection with his mutual (?) benefit association. He was brought before the Committee and acknowledged to have received \$76, but from *whom* we were not informed. Those who sent him any money should demand its *instant return*, and if there is any failure upon his part to do so, or any *hesitation*, even, if they will advise us of the fact, we will turn him over to the next grand jury and have him indicted for each and every offense.

In this connection we would thank any one who may have sent him any money to give us their names and addresses and the correspondence they have had with him. It may become necessary to teach him a lesson in equity, and if it is, we'll give it to him straight from the U. S. Statutes.

It is always wise and prudent to provide for a "rainy day," to invest where returns are sure and certain. Life insurance has helped many a family out of a financial strait.

THE National Executive Committee is compelled to throw itself upon the mercy of postmasters. If the response to this their last call is not sufficient to carry on the movement inaugurated, the jig will be up.

THE Committee appointed to inspect and audit our books and accounts in connection with the National Committee is composed of W. T. B. SCHEMERHORN, Hudson, Mich., W. H. CANNON, Merrill, Wis., and L. J. SACRISTE, La Grange, Ill.

THE printing of the "Official Postal Guide" has gone back to HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & Co., of Boston. The contract for this year was awarded to a Chicago firm, but for some reason they threw it up. The fact is, there was no money in it at the price it was taken at.

LET every reader of THE UNITED STATES MAIL take the trouble to inform two or three of his brother-postmasters that we are to have a Postmasters' Convention in Chicago on Tuesday, September 14th, and that if they want the particulars, to subscribe for this journal, and they will get them.

It is strange, but nevertheless true, that rich men, or well-to-do men, take more interest in life insurance than poor men. The men who can the least afford to be without it are generally the ones who do not carry any. There are very few men who are comfortably well off who do not have from one to five thousand in life insurance.

WILL YOU ATTEND?

WE would regard it as a special favor if every postmaster who proposes attending the convention will notify us in advance. We have been appointed a committee of *one* to make all the preliminary arrangements, and one of the most important things for us to know is how many will be here. It is necessary for *two* reasons: the first being that we must secure a place of meeting sufficiently large to accommodate the crowd in attendance. It should not be too large nor too small. We do not need an opera house for one or two hundred, and it would be unwise to attempt to pack five hundred into a room thirty by fifty. Again, it is better to have those who come stop at the same hotel as far as possible, and thus mingle together before and after convention hours. It would enable you to confer together upon the objects of the convention, even though it might not be in session. By engaging quarters for from fifty to three hundred people, it would insure a reduction in hotel-rates.

We say, then, write us if you intend to come, and we will engage quarters for you. If you cannot decide that question now, then let us know the moment you do so, if in the affirmative.

We cannot state in what hall or building the convention will be held. That will be determined by the number who propose attending.

Our headquarters are at No. 196 La Salle Street, room 23, where all information will be given to those who put in an appearance.

OUR CIRCULATION.

THERE are not less than one hundred thousand persons connected with the postal service of this country, and it would not be too much to expect that half of them would take sufficient interest in their business to subscribe for THE UNITED STATES MAIL. Out of the 53,000 postmasters, 40,000 of them should support a journal of this character, and it is a mystery not only to us, but to the friends of the paper, why they do not come forward and express their approval of our work. We hope to run up our list to 30,000 by the first of January, and if we do, we shall extend the size of the paper to thirty-two pages. If it could be done, we could then print a paper that would be invaluable; and it *could be* if our present subscribers would lend their aid and influence.

WHEN you come to the Convention next month, strike a bee line for the office of THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

POSTMASTERS who have an eye to business will not fail to "interview" their Congressmen between now and December. If they will do so, they will not only help themselves, but will greatly aid the Committee in its work next Winter. Tell them that you mean business, and that we propose to stay with them this time until we get what we are after. Please do not neglect this duty.

THE Railway Postal Clerks' Mutual Benefit Association is to-day the safest and cheapest life insurance company in the United States. There is but one officer in it who receives a salary, and he is the Secretary and Treasurer, and his allowance is but \$500 a year. It would be a most excellent organization to copy after. We propose having some of its most active members address the approaching Convention. Economy of management is a guarantee of safety.

CHEAPER STAMPED ENVELOPES.

THIRD Assistant Postmaster-general Hazen has issued a circular in regard to stamped envelopes, for which a new contract has recently been made at reduced rates for the four years commencing October 1st next: A corresponding reduction will accordingly be made, to take effect that date, in the price of envelopes issued for sale to the public, and to more fully meet the demand new sizes and styles have been added to the list. Postmasters are directed to use every effort to exhaust their present stock. Special request-envelopes being sold and paid for in advance, will, however, continue to be furnished in such quantities as may be ordered. In cases where the supply of stamped envelopes now in the hands of postmasters is found to be more than sufficient to last until October 1st, the surplus may be sold to or exchanged with neighboring postmasters who may need the envelopes and be willing to purchase or exchange. As no abatement in price will be allowed on stamped envelopes on hand September 30th, and as the return to the department of such envelopes will not be permitted, postmasters will readily see the advantage of exercising the utmost care to exhaust their supplies by that date.

A RECEIPT WILL BE GIVEN.

WE wish to say that a receipt will be given to all who subscribe for THE UNITED STATES MAIL under the call of the National Committee, and we would thank every subscriber to send his receipt to Mr. W. T. B. SCHEMERHORN, P. M., Hudson, Mich., who is a member of the Auditing Committee to inspect our books and accounts, and that gentleman can hold them for verification when the Committee comes to make its examination. There was no request from anybody that this should be done, but it has occurred to us that it would in a measure be a *protection* to us, and we therefore take the liberty of not only suggesting that it be done, but we *urge that no one neglect it*. We will regard it as a special favor if our wishes in this respect are complied with. Our position in this matter is a delicate one, and we propose to throw around ourself every safeguard against suspicion of unfairness and fraud.

POSTAL TELEGRAPHY.

MR. CYRUS W. FIELD thinks the time has come for the Government to annex the telegraph to the postal service, and that in acquiring the existing lines for public use we should follow the example set by England. According to Mr. FIELD's exposition of the English process, the Government should arrive at a fair valuation of the Western Union monopoly's plant and property by ascertaining the aggregate amount of stock on which it is paying dividends, and exchange an equal amount of Government bonds for the same. But Mr. FIELD cannot show that the English Government cashed any watered stocks at par. The stock-watering and bogus-dividend-paying business is not as free and frolicsome anywhere else in the wide world as it is in this country. Everywhere else shares of stock represent actual capital invested, and dividends represent net earnings, not money borrowed or diverted from the payment of current expenses to float watered stocks on the market. Mr. FIELD's proposition simply means the payment of about \$90,000,000 for a plant that can be duplicated for less than \$30,000,000, and for franchises that would be utterly valueless the moment a postal telegraph was put in operation by the Government in

competition with existing lines. The Government can take as much of the telegraph plant as it needs for public use, paying for it just what a jury of experts may say the material and construction cost; and if the entire plant should be taken at such a valuation, the owners would be treated not only with equity, but with liberality.

LETTER-HEADS.

WE are receiving so many requests for letter-heads, that we have at last concluded to print them for those who desire them, and have gotten up two beautiful designs, and will send them to all who desire them. One of them contains a portrait of the Postmaster-general in the bowl of the letter P. in the word Post-office, and is one of the most artistic pieces of wood-carving we ever saw. Sample of printed envelopes will also be sent.

IS YOUR TIME OUT?

WITH this issue of THE UNITED STATES MAIL a large number of subscriptions expire. We have marked all such with a great big X, and if they desire the paper continued, it will be necessary for them to *renew*. All who send \$2 for one year will be credited with having contributed \$1 to the fund of the Committee, and a receipt will be sent accordingly.

We hope all our old subscribers will stand by us!

SEND US THE NEWS.

It is impossible for us to catch all the postal news afloat in the newspapers, and we would regard it as a special favor if our friends would cut out and send us all they see. It would greatly aid us in producing a good paper. It don't make any difference what it is, clip it out and let us judge of its value as news.

OMITTED.

It was our intention to commence the publication this month of the contributors to the Committee Fund, but we are at last forced to omit it on account of the reception at a late date of more important news; but we shall give one-third of it next month, anyhow.

THE Postmasters' Bill in the Senate is No. 2,036. It was introduced by Senator WILSON, of Iowa, read twice and referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. It is an exact copy of No. 7,474, introduced into the House by Mr. PETERS, of Kansas. They were presented to both Houses of Congress in order to facilitate matters when they came up for final action.

THE Railway Postal Clerks have a successful mutual benefit association of from twelve to fifteen hundred members, and it has been in operation for years. The good it has accomplished can never be adequately expressed. The want and misery it has saved the family of many a poor postal clerk is past finding out, and eternity itself will only unravel the story of its blessings to the widows and orphans of its members.

THE post-office at Oconomowoc, Wis., has been moved to new quarters and refitted with new fixtures. The expressions of delight by the patrons of the office are many, from Republicans as well as Democrats.

THE postmaster at Fairmount, W. Va., whom Ex-President HAYES asked to be retained, has been fired, and NEWTON S. BARNES appointed.

FROM THE WEST VIRGINIA MEMBER NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

BUCKHANNON, W. VA. August 2d, 1886.

EDITOR UNITED STATES MAIL:

YOUR welcome paper was received on Saturday, the 31st. Allow me to congratulate you on your complete vindication at the hands of the Committee on the charges made against you by P. H. Russell. I suppose every member of the Committee was favored with substantially the same communications that I was. I am glad you appointed a Committee on Legislation, but think you have made a mistake in selecting all the Committee from the Western members of the National Committee. Every section should be represented—New England, the Middle, Southern and Western States—and I would suggest that at the September meeting the National Committee reconsider this matter. Where could we find a better man than L. Hensly Grubbs, of Decatur, Ala., for the Southern member, Frank H. Daniels, of Franklin Falls, N. H., for the Northern member? The gentleman for New York State, W. D. Hoyt, of Middleport, would make some of the boycotters feel his presence if on that Committee, and Friend Risley, of West Plains, Mo., has probably no equal as a money-order schemer; and then yourself as a sort of walking "Boss," to keep the boys straight while in Washington, would, to my notion, complete "the Gang."

I offer this as a suggestion, and hope it may please the Committee to consider it.

Yours,

TOM G. BRADY,

Postmaster.

THROWING OFF THE MAILS.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF GENERAL SUP'T R. M. S.
WASHINGTON, D. C. }

General Order No. 216.

SEVERAL instances have been brought to the attention of this Office where persons have been injured or property destroyed by the careless throwing off of mail at catch-stations.

Division Superintendents cannot too strongly urge upon clerks the necessity of exercising great care in this respect, and instructions regarding the same should appear from time to time in general orders as a caution, especially for the benefit of new clerks.

Wherever destruction of property occurs as the result of carelessness on the part of any clerk in throwing off the mail at catch-stations, such clerk will be required to make good the loss.

JOHN JAMESON,

General Superintendent.

THERE will be no more mistakes made in regard to the formation of a Postmasters' Mutual Benefit Association. None but experienced men will be put on deck.

THE present force of Post-office Inspectors are a terror to evil-doers. They appear to mean business, from the numerous rascals they yank up.

THE post-office at Middleport, N. Y., has been repainted and rejuvenated inside and out. Postmaster HOYT has his whole heart in his business.

A LETTER from England addressed to "John Kent, Horse Wiggers Falls, Horse Wiggers county, state of New York," was sent by a knowing post-office clerk to Oswego Falls, N. Y., where it belonged.

POST-OFFICES IN GENERAL AND NEW YORK POST-OFFICE IN PARTICULAR.

ST. JOHNSBURY, VT., July 20.

EDITOR UNITED STATES MAIL:

WHEN July came fierce and strong, I left the dust and sin of New York behind me and betook myself to a town far-famed for its morality and pure air. If frequent laudations of it in religious papers be correct, every family goes to church, grass grows in the devious paths of the skating-rink, all the people are "best" and all the drunkards go thirsty. Madam Rumor says that the wicked commercial traveler smiles at the last statement, but we are blind to his "smiles."

At a little hamlet of this stronghold of virtue the post-office had just changed hands. I am sure there never was another such a tempest, and the teapot was exceedingly small. The author of the excellent book of ugly title "Letters from Hell" tells us there is a post-office in that locality. I doubt if even there much more unholy feeling can be excited than followed the shifting of fourth-class post-offices in this good commonwealth. Though the custodian of the particular office where my Summer letters came did not belong to my political party (which is the right one), I could but feel that perhaps our Government owed him quite as much as any country post-office could confer; for I knew that in that siege of Yorktown, which "Little Mack's" recent death has caused to be recalled, this same official, then in captain's uniform, made a most gallant charge through the Warwick, of which General Smith said, that "among the four companies of the 3d Vt. Regiment there were more individual acts of heroism performed than he had ever before read of."

I cannot now recall which was talked of more, the post-office or the weather, as either topic was equally hot. But as I came back to catch the cool breezes of the Atlantic I thought it might be worth my while to know something of our post-office here, which has not yet struck either the upper or the nether millstone of the Administration. New York, as behooves the greatest and most populous city of the New World and one of the richest capitals of the globe, abounds at every hand with noble buildings, public and private, the latter comparing favorably with those of any of the centres of the Old World civilization. It goes without saying that we cannot boast of time-worn and picturesque old edifices which are the delight of the artist. We have no moss-grown towers or grand cathedrals with the ivy growth of centuries upon them. Aside from these heritages of former ages which add so much to the fascination of European capitals, the metropolis of America is in many ways notable for the striking character of its architecture.

The most imposing of all the public edifices of New York is the Post-office, which exceeds in size any other post-office building in the world. It is built entirely of granite, iron, brick and glass. Its style of architecture is Doric modified by the Renaissance. The basement is devoted to sorting of letters and making up mails; the first floor is used as the receiving department; on the second and third floors are the United States court-rooms, and the attic supplies rooms for the janitor and watchman. Those of us who approach our writing-desks as though they were thumb-screws or pillories will groan at the thought that thirty-six million letters are delivered here annually and the same number sent away. Two thousand men are employed. Some of them work with amazing rapidity, and others go so leisurely that one feels sure that all the

other men of the family are in Congress. Four deaf mutes are on the list of clerks. "When we get two noisy men," said the assistant superintendent, "we put a 'dummy' between them and so secure quiet."

DOUGLAS JERROLD said that every business had its cheerful side, and that if he were an undertaker there were some men he should greatly enjoy burying. Dull and prosaic as the post-office clerk's life must be, even he has now and then a glimpse of humor. Our friends over the sea furnish some addresses which are excellent as puzzles, but useless for the purpose intended. One read:

"To ———: May God make you all pure in heart and prepare you for the better world."

"NORTH AMERICA."

A sentimentalist would be touched by seeing on an envelope:

"Mary Christmas, dear Switharte"; or, "My Love is gone to Sea."

The letter addressed:

"To The American Consul of the North American Southern States,"

will be delivered at the furnace-door.

One writer copies on his envelope in a careful student hand:

"With malice toward none, with charity for all," and forgets any other direction.

The "Professor" who speaks twenty languages and uses twelve kinds of spectacles is seldom baffled by an address if there be in it a single correct feature. We saw him catch up a letter addressed to "Istqueuan Con," and quickly change it to East Canaan, Conn. How could he tell that "Hoio" meant Ohio, or that "Scitznaty" was a city of that proud State? or guess that "Ioel" was Iowa? The worst of all was:

"John Hermann Schiermen Stauekaundo."

It was speedily translated into John Hermann, Sherman P. O., Chautauqua Co., N. Y.

In the Dead-letter Department we were shown a great assortment of curiosities. A package of dynamite came in a mail-bag while we were there. A beautiful foxskin without the ghost of an address appeared also. But our eyes opened widest when a common paste-board box appeared. It was broken and showed its contents to be candy and four twenty-dollar gold pieces. The address was "Nan, New York City." We have since learned that a notice of it in the morning papers brought the lady who sent it, who supposed that in that way she might reach the beggar girl who had pulled her child from under a horse's feet and saved its life.

The man who stands all day throwing packages with unerring aim into their several divisions, arranged like large pigeon-holes in a semi-circular form, challenged our admiration.

At one time when THACKERAY was in Ireland he noticed posts on which were printed "G. P. O." When he asked the meaning, he was told, "God preserve O'Connell." He proceeded to make a note of it in one of his books as a proof of the affectionate devotion of the Irish to their great leader. The type-setter hastened to inform the novelist that it would never do to print that, for the inscription only meant "General Post-office." When we remember what the General Post-office does for us: how carefully and faithfully it does its work; how promptly it brings messages to us, though caring nothing whether they be of joy or sorrow; how, in this country, where servants are generally so idle and thoughtless, this one is ever keen, alert, prompt and sure, we may well exclaim, "God preserve the Post-office."

C. M.

RAILWAY POSTAL CLERKS.

A Statement of their Case by One of their Number.

ELYRIA, OHIO, July 1st, 1886.

EDITOR UNITED STATES MAIL:

By Act of Congress, in July, 1882, the salaries of railway post-office clerks were fixed as follows: First class, not exceeding eight hundred dollars per annum; second class, not exceeding nine hundred dollars; third class, not exceeding one thousand dollars; fourth class, not exceeding twelve hundred dollars, and fifth class, not exceeding fourteen hundred dollars.

In accordance with this Act the Postmaster-general assigned to clerks of the first, second and third classes the maximum amounts allowed by Congress, but for some cause, which I have never heard any one attempt to explain, he allowed to clerks of the fourth class but eleven hundred and fifty dollars, and to those of the fifth class only thirteen hundred dollars per annum. The following extract is from the last annual report of the General Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service. "The annual appropriation for the pay of railway post-office clerks for the current fiscal year is \$4,682,300. Of this amount \$81,300 was presumably appropriated for the special purpose of increasing the salaries of clerks of the fourth and fifth classes to the rates of compensation paid prior to the 1st of July, 1876; but inasmuch as the Appropriation Bill, as approved, does not state specifically that such was the intention of Congress, the Postmaster-general is of the opinion that this fund cannot be drawn upon for that purpose."

Some time since I noticed, in the press reports of Congressional proceedings, that Senator Call introduced a joint resolution instructing the Postmaster-general to disburse the \$81,300 to clerks of the fourth and fifth classes, in accordance with the appropriation. The resolution was referred to committee, since which I have seen nothing of it in reports.

Does it not seem reasonable that this money should be paid for the purpose for which it was appropriated? When one takes into consideration the amount of study required, and the exacting and laborious duties performed, by clerks in the Railway Mail Service, the salaries they receive are much less than those of any other class of Government employés. Particularly is this the case when one considers that the knowledge they acquire, either by study or years of practice, is of no value to them in any other position in life that they may be called upon to fill. The clerks on the New York & Chicago R. P. O. between Cleveland, Ohio, and Chicago, Ill., are required to run over sixty-five thousand miles per annum.

They are necessarily absent from home one-half of the time, during which their personal expenses, at the low estimate of six dollars per week, would amount to one hundred and fifty-six dollars; leaving to clerks of the fifth class eleven hundred and forty-four dollars with which to support their families, educate their children, pay doctor's bills, etc., etc. This amount to the highest salaried clerks. It is not necessary to say that few retire on their savings. What a bright look the future must have to those engaged in this occupation!

What a munificent salary, to be paid by the grandest Government on earth! To be sure, they talk, and talk, and still they talk, of all kinds of schemes for the benefit of these same postal clerks.

Now, a Bill is introduced in Congress to pay their widows, or surviving heirs, a year's

salary, if they should be killed while on duty. Again, a Bill is introduced to retire all clerks on forty dollars per month, when they shall have been in continuous, faithful service for twenty years. With all due respect for the Honorable Gentlemen who introduced these Bills, let us suggest that they introduce a Bill to pay these hard-worked, poorly paid men a salary that will enable them to pay their own life-insurance, and in course of twenty years' service to lay by sufficient to keep them in their old age.

At least, gentlemen, now that the money is already appropriated, sufficient for the purpose, pay them the maximum amount which the law allows.

J. F. ALLEN.

ERRORS IN MONEY ORDERS.

Some Interesting Correspondence in Relation Thereto.

STARKE, FLA., July 28th, 1886.

EDITOR UNITED STATES MAIL:

DEAR SIR:—Have you noticed the fact that in the present reduction of fees on money orders for sums not exceeding \$5, there is quite a chance for working what you might call a "dodge" on the Department.

For example, in issuing an order, for, say \$3, suppose I make a mistake and have to repay the order, I get 3½ cents for issuing it and 3½ cents for repaying it, which amounts to seven cents, while the fee received by the Department is only five cents, thus causing a loss to the Government of two cents. Of course the amount is small, but if I were to issue and repay twenty-five orders of this kind, and other offices were to do the same in proportion, the total would aggregate quite an amount in twelve months.

Of course you see the idea without further explanation, even if you were not already aware of it. Yours truly,

J. W. MORGAN.

The letter of Mr. Morgan was sent to Dr. McDonald, Superintendent of the Money-Order System who replied as follows:

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT.
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF MONEY-ORDER
SYSTEM,
WASHINGTON, D. C., August 5th, 1886.

SIR:—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d inst., transmitting a communication addressed to you on the 28th ult. by Mr. J. W. Morgan, of Starke, Fla., who points out a way in which, in his opinion, the Department may be defrauded by a postmaster.

He explains that a postmaster dishonestly inclined may issue a large number of money orders for less than \$5 each, in which he may intentionally make mistakes, in consequence of which he will be obliged to repay the orders. The fee received by the Government upon each one of such orders would be five cents, while the postmaster would receive 3½ cents for issuing and 3½ cents for repaying each order, a total of seven cents as the postmaster's compensation. The loss to the Government upon each order would, therefore, be two cents, in addition to other items of expense connected with the transaction of the money-order business.

I beg to inform you in reply that under the regulations of this Department, section 990, page 203, "If an error of any kind be made in filling up a money order, and it be discovered at the time of issuing, or before the advice has been dispatched, a new money order must be made out." The succeeding section, 991, provides that in such case the spoiled money-order must be treated as *not issued*, and trans-

mitted to the Department. Upon such a money order the issuing postmaster is entitled by law to no compensation whatever.

I beg, furthermore, to inform you that under section 1,004 of the same regulations, when a mistake has been made in issuing a money order, the advice of which has already been dispatched from the issuing office, the issuing postmaster must repay the money order and issue another in lieu thereof; but under section 4,038 of the Revised Statutes a new fee must be exacted for the second order, and, under the regulation last mentioned, if the issuing postmaster is responsible for the mistake made in the original order, he must pay the second fee *from his private funds*.

It is to be observed, therefore, that the postmaster who intentionally makes a mistake in issuing a money order, may receive no compensation whatever for that order, which should be treated as *not issued*, and that if he dishonestly, and with intent to defraud, actually delivers such an erroneously issued money order, and actually dispatches the advice thereof, he would subject himself to the loss of an amount equal to the fee upon a new order issued to replace the first.

The letter of Mr. J. W. Morgan, of Starke, Fla., is herewith returned in compliance with your request. I am respectfully, etc.,

C. F. MACDONALD,
Superintendent.

JOHN H. PATTERSON, Esq.,
THE UNITED STATES MAIL, Chicago, Ill.

PICTURE OF TOM BRADY.

Broken in Health, He Abandons New York and Seeks Rest in Virginia.

NEW YORK, July 25th, 1886.

EDITOR U. S. MAIL:

Not long ago, after a hard night's work on a morning newspaper, I made a dash for a Sixth Avenue car. It was 4 A.M. The car was moving from Vesey Street and Broadway. As I sat down, puffing and blowing, a full-faced gentleman, with a broad expanse of shirt-front, addressed me. He wore a trimmed mustache. His blue eyes were bright and sparkling, but there was no merriment in them. His face was sober and reflective. He was evidently a man who had been battered and waterlogged in the storms that sweep over the ocean of life. It was an intellectual face, chastened by sad experience. It was the face of General Thomas J. Brady, of Star Route fame. For a year past he has been living at the Astor House. As the car was just leaving the shadow of that famous hotel, I could not avoid an expression of astonishment at seeing him out so early. "I can't sleep," he said, in a resonant voice, speaking slowly and deliberately. "For hours I have tossed my head on my pillow, seeking sleep in vain. I've counted 'way up in the thousands, and have done everything possible to secure a night's rest, but it's no go. My thoughts wander all over creation in spite of all that I can do, and I can't sleep. While I was lying in bed, with every nerve vibrating like the string of a guitar at concert-pitch, and wondering what I should do to get rest, I happened to think that a Turkish bath might produce the desired result. I remembered that somebody once told me that an establishment of that kind was kept open all night near Sixth Avenue and Twenty-fourth Street, and I'm going up there in search of it. Do you know where it is?"

I replied that I had heard of such a place, but that I could not give him the number. Despite his immobility of face and apparent

equanimity, I saw that he was excessively nervous. He took off his high hat repeatedly and wiped its sweat-band with his handkerchief, and he made eccentric gesticulations with his plump, white hands. He played with his old-fashioned silk watch-guard and frequently shifted his attitude. The dominant spirit of the man, however, seemed unshaken. He looked me full in the eye, and talked and acted like a man who knew his rights in this world despite his misfortune, and who was only waiting for an opportunity to assert them.

The general has lately been a prominent figure in the arena of every-day New York life. As President of the Corn Club, he has presided at its daily meetings in room No. 1, Astor House. His inexhaustible fund of stories and his imperturbable good nature have endeared him to the host of good fellows that float to the surface of city life in the late hours of the afternoon. They all like him, and they gather round him whenever he descends on the mutability of life. Chief Justice Marshall never had a more superb flow of language. His analysis of the sin of ingratitude would put many an eminent man of the day to the blush. He says the most bitter things at opportune moments—all the more bitter because they spring hot from his heart, and because they are stamped with truth. He never speaks without saying something. At dinners he is always a welcome guest. As a post-prandial speaker he is superior to both General Horace Porter and General George A. Sheridan, for he never repeats himself, and, like the late Horace Greeley, always propounds something new.

But he seems to have been overwhelmed by his misfortunes. He cannot see wherein he is different from men in exalted stations who have profited by his work. At times he rises to his feet and denounces them in language so glowing that it would become proverbial if printed. Like many a man of powerful mental grip, however, he has tried to wash away all memories in excesses. Wine always flows freely at his table, and *bon mots* and sparkling reminiscences attend the smoke curling from his Havanas. Such excesses, added to the memories of the past, have ended in insomnia. He is ever brooding over the past, without definite ideas as to the future. His experience in life has shaken his faith in Christianity, and at times he out-Ingersolls Bob Ingersoll in atheistical apothegms. Indeed, the other night, when rebuked for some radical doctrinal proposition and reminded of the services of the Founder of Christianity to humanity, including himself, he startled and horrified the company by deliberately rising and proposing His health.

Broken down in body, if not in mind, General Brady has shaken the dust of New York from his heels and is trying to recuperate. He owns a farm of 500 acres in Virginia, at the mouth of the Potomac, and he has gone down there to spend the Summer. The roisterers of the city will miss him, but the society of birds, chipmunks and honest farmers may turn his mind in a new channel. The soft air of the Chesapeake and a fish diet may give him renewed bodily strength, and when the great political campaign of 1888 opens, he may be in a position to enter the lists and break a lance to some purpose. He has the will and the disposition. All he wants is energy and opportunity.

ZISKA.

MAIL-CARRIER ROBERTS and nineteen mules have been killed by a snowslide near Silverton, Col. Four other men were buried, but finally escaped.

THE PRESIDENT'S ORDER TO OFFICE-HOLDERS.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 17th, 1886.

Order No. 142.

To all officials and employes of the Post-Office Department and of the postal service of the United States.

Attention is invited to the following order received by this Department from the President of the United States, viz.:

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, July 14, 1886.

To the heads of Departments in the service of the General Government:

I deem this a proper time to especially warn all subordinates in the several Departments, and all officeholders under the General Government, against the use of their official positions in attempts to control political movements in their localities.

Officeholders are the agents of the people—not their masters. Not only are their time and labor due to the Government, but they should scrupulously avoid, in their political action, as well as in the discharge of their official duty, offending, by a display of obtrusive partisanship, their neighbors who have relations with them as public officials.

They should also constantly remember that their party friends, from whom they have received preferment, have not invested them with the power of arbitrarily managing their political affairs. They have no right, as officeholders, to dictate the political action of their party associates, or to throttle freedom of action within party lines by methods and practices which pervert every useful and justifiable purpose of party organization.

The influence of Federal officeholders should not be felt in the manipulation of political primary meetings and nominating conventions. The use by these officials of their positions to compass their selection as delegates to political conventions is indecent and unfair; and proper regard for the proprieties and requirements of official place will also prevent their assuming the active conduct of political campaigns.

Individual interest and activity in political affairs are by no means condemned. Officeholders are neither disfranchised nor forbidden the exercise of political privileges; but their privileges are not enlarged nor is their duty to the party increased to pernicious activity by officeholding.

A just discrimination in this regard between the things a citizen may properly do and the purpose for which a public office should not be used, is easy in the light of a correct appreciation of the relation between the people and those intrusted with official place, and a consideration of the necessity, under our form of government, of political action free from official coercion.

You are requested to communicate the substance of these views to those for whose guidance they are intended.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

All officials and employes of that branch of the public service which is committed to this Department are directed to strictly observe and obey the requirements of the foregoing order.

This order will be printed in the *Daily Bulletin* of the Department and in the *Official Guide* for August, September and October.

WILLIAM F. VILAS,
Postmaster-general.

REDUCTION IN PRICE OF STAMPED ENVELOPES.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE THIRD ASS'T P. M. GENERAL,
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 28th, 1886.

A NEW contract has recently been made, at greatly reduced rates, for furnishing the Department with stamped envelopes and newspaper wrappers for the four years commencing

October 1st., 1886. A corresponding reduction will, accordingly, be made, to take effect on and after that date, in the price of stamped envelopes issued for sale to the public. To more fully meet the wants of the public, certain new sizes and styles have been added to the list. Copies of the new schedule of prices, with full information and blank forms of requisition, will be furnished to postmasters early in September.

In order that the public, in purchasing stamped envelopes, may everywhere and at the same time have the benefit of the new rate, postmasters are urged to use every effort to exhaust their present stock, and to limit their requisitions on the Department to cover actual requirements to the close of the present quarter, as nearly as the same can be estimated. The Department, in the exercise of its discretion, will curtail requisitions for ordinary stamped envelopes when the quantities ordered may seem excessive. Special-request envelopes, being sold and paid for in advance, will, however, continue to be furnished in such quantities as may be ordered, and postmasters will not discourage the sale of such envelopes pending the change of prices.

In cases where the supply of stamped envelopes now in the hands of postmasters is found to be more than sufficient to last until the 1st of October next, the surplus may be sold to or exchanged with neighboring postmasters who may need the envelopes and be willing to purchase or exchange. Postage stamps and postal cards may be received by one postmaster from another in exchange for such stamped envelopes; and such sales or exchanges need not be specially reported to the Department. Exchanges must not, however, be made by postmasters for private parties.

As no abatement in price will be allowed on stamped envelopes remaining on hand on the 30th of September, and as the return to the Department of such envelopes will not be permitted, postmasters will readily see the advantage of exercising the utmost care to exhaust their supplies by that date.

A. D. HAZEN,
Third Ass't P. M. Gen'l.

APPLY FOR A MANDAMUS.

THE following letter was published in the *Chicago Inter-Ocean*, February 15th, the day of the opening of the Postmaster's Convention, and as it is readable, we reproduce it. It was addressed to the President of the Convention:

MARSEILLES, ILL., February 9th.

Please give my compliments to the postmasters who may be present at the coming Convention, from one who has served twenty years as postmaster, the last twelve years in a Presidential office. I am ordered on the side-track; have a little steam left to be exhausted to help your cause. I have read my own sentiments in so many of the late letters published in *THE UNITED STATES MAIL* that should I attend the Convention, and THOMAS H. BATES, of Empire City, Col., had the floor first, my say would be short. I would simply indorse his words as published in that official organ, except that I would not ask for any franking privileges when the Government carries mail at a loss, and far below what any private enterprise would attempt like service. Here are some "pointers" that the postmasters should paste in their hats: One thing they must not omit—it will be necessary if they succeed and Congress enacts the laws needed in their behalf. They must not forget to apply to the courts for a mandamus to compel the Postmaster-general to obey the law. Omit this and their labor is lost. Since 1866 the law to regulate the salaries of our class has been nullified and obstructed by the different Postmaster-generals. From 1866 to 1874 I was shamefully wronged out of \$1,400. I employed an attor-

ney, who has labored twelve years to compel the Department to pay me a salary due under the Act of 1854. I was appointed in 1866, without request on my part. The compensation was then \$62.50 per quarter, and it was at a time when wages were high. I furnished a separate building for office, with fuel and lights, etc. The business of the office increased, and my returns showed that the increase was healthy, and it became the duty of the Postmaster-general to readjust my salary under the Act of 1854. I understood the law, and mathematized statements showed I was correct. I made application for readjustment. The Department stiffly informed me that I was not obliged to serve as postmaster at the salary named if I was not satisfied. I decided I had better keep quiet, for I was then limping around with wounds received in battle. I thought it might be considered mutiny to publicly express this wrong. I gave no back talk and accepted what the Department named (not the law). The plan adopted by the Department was to make a law of their own, to cheat postmasters whose business rapidly increased, by computing the pay on the receipts of the two years prior, when business was small. Congress should immediately see that this great injustice is corrected, and procure the rights of those who have been wronged, if it takes millions to pay the damages. If you recollect, last year there was an Act authorizing the Postmaster-general to pay rent of post-offices of the third class. I thought that a noble Act of Congress. Did the Postmaster-general do it? For twenty years I have provided a separate building for the post-office, and at the end of the first quarter after said law passed, I sent in an item in my quarterly report, \$27 for rent of post-office building, the amount I had paid out for same. This item was rejected so quick it made me dizzy, and I was informed that only in special cases did the Postmaster-general do this; where the rent was a nominal sum an allowance would be made for rent. The location of a post-office can be used to boom certain localities away from certain business centres, by some furnishing and giving rent for a nominal price for a term.

Don't forget the mandamus, which must follow any law passed to interest the applicants. You that would work so hard for a \$1,400 post-office will, in many cases, have an elephant. The public think you have a clean, handsome income, but you can see that sum melt down one-half for clerk-hire and office-rent, not including contingent expenses. You give a gilt-edge bond to make common wages, and assume the responsibility when you could do better at some other occupation, and not be responsible for a lead-pencil.

You must not say anything cranky, but get down and beg. You are not figureheads, as in first and second class offices. What is the difference between a postmaster of a second-class office and a postmaster of a third-class office? The first gets big pay and does little work; the second, little pay and does big work.

Respectfully,
DAVID H. SLAGLE, P. M.

DISHONEST POSTAL CLERKS.

A FORMER post-office mailing-clerk picked up a letter from an office table. The letter bore little upon its outward face that would give any clew to its interior. Said he, "There's money in this letter." There was money in it. The gentleman said that one of the advantages of modern post-office business was the increased advantage of transmission of money through the mails. When he was a clerk, there was not a clerk in the office who couldn't tell easily, upon the first feeling of a letter, whether there was money in it or not. He remembered the first decoy letter that came into the post-office where he was. It was the first of the Government's sending out. The decoy letter is marked to an impossible direction. It is due at the Dead-letter Office within a stated time. The first that he ever saw bore the direction: "Mr. Harry Quilp, Quilp County, Quilp." There is, of course, no such direction possible. The decoy letter contains money, and will turn up at the Dead-letter Office.

POSTMASTERS' CLAIMS.

WASHINGTON, June 18th.

MR. CHACE to-day offered in the Senate a resolution calling on the Postmaster-general for information as to the amount of additional compensation asserted to be due postmasters and late postmasters under the Act of March 3d, 1883, for the payment of which no provision has been made. In offering the resolution, Mr. Chace said he had reason to believe that the statements made yesterday by the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Ingalls) were correct, and that the accounts referred to were adjusted and the information called for by the Senate required merely a transcript from the books of the Department. Mr. Chace added that some correspondence placed in his hands between certain claim agents in Washington and claimants outside pointed very strongly to the suspicion that there might possibly be some collusion between parties in the Post-office Department and certain claim agents in Washington, particularly one such agent, who assumed to be above not only the Department but Congress itself, and dictated to claimants what proportion of their claims they should pay him. That agent had even gone so far as to give his own name to an Act of Congress passed in relation to the claims in question. Mr. Chace believed the Postmaster-general owed it to himself and to the Department to take such action as should relieve the Department from the grave suspicion that rested on it in connection with those claims. Mr. Chace did not mean to charge—he could not charge, because he was not prepared to prove—that anybody in the Department was guilty, but he would say the circumstances pointed to a grave suspicion. Claims against the Government, Mr. Chace added, should need no agent for their presentation or payment. If a Bill were honest it should be paid, and no claim agent should be in a position to say to a claimant, "Stand and deliver."

Mr. Butler said this matter of postmasters' salaries had been before not only this Administration, but the last. He thought it due to the present Postmaster-general to say that claimants had been repeatedly notified that no "agents" were necessary in dealing with those claims. He did not think any one claim agent had better standing in the Department than any other.

Mr. Chace gave the name of the claim agent referred to by him. He had not meant that anybody in the Department was guilty of collusion, but the fact that these accounts should long ago have been adjusted, and the other facts explaining the case, created suspicion in the minds of persons ignorant as to how such things were done.

Mr. Butler and Mr. Maxey agreed with Mr. Chace that the accounts ought to have been adjusted.

Mr. Chace's resolution was agreed to.

A resolution offered by Mr. Sawyer was agreed to calling on the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish the Senate information as to claims for adjustment of postmasters' salaries not heretofore reported.

In 1823 the rates of postage were, for a single letter of one piece of paper for any distance not exceeding 30 miles, 6 cents; over 30 miles and not exceeding 80 miles, 10 cents; over 80 and not exceeding 150 miles, 12½ cents; over 150 and not exceeding 400 miles, 18½ cents; over 400 miles, 25 cents. Letters composed of two pieces of paper were charged double those rates; three pieces were charged triple rates, and more than three pieces quadruple postage.

A RECENT puzzle in the Dead-letter Office at Washington, was a missive with this inscription: "Me Maria Peranala nura Pa Kamlin Ka ute takkata ter nurt amerikaa." The lady to whom it was allotted read it over to herself till wellnigh distracted, and finally settled on "Mrs. Maria Peratola, Nora, Hamlin County, Dakota." And it was duly delivered. A more fearful one was this: "Gi hon aho la ast ha gew lan har yori ohio laan Pok jas Ameriika." It was translated to mean "John Ahola, Ash-tabula Harbor, Ohio."

WHAT THE NEW POSTMASTERS SAY.

THE undersigned Postmasters, appointed to office by President Cleveland, having become subscribers to THE UNITED STATES MAIL, published at Chicago, take occasion to commend that journal to their brethren in the service as entirely worthy of patronage. It is conducted with spirit and energy, and is not only enjoyable as giving the news and gossip of the service from one end of the country to the other, but is also valuable as the instruction it imparts in regard to existing postal laws and regulations. Newly appointed postmasters will find it especially serviceable in giving timely hints in the manner of transacting business with the Department, and none can fail to be benefited by its perusal. Postmasters should not hesitate in subscribing for such a paper. It is greatly needed, and their support should not only be prompt, but cordial.

Very respectfully,

I. Parker Veazey, P. M., Baltimore, Md.
Charles R. Chapman, P. M., Hartford, Conn.
B. R. English, P. M., New Haven, Conn.
T. J. Bunn, P. M., Bloomington, Ill.
George W. Martin, P. M., Chattanooga, Tenn.
James F. Mayberry, P. M., Cortland, N. Y.
John Warner, P. M., Peoria, Ill.
Wm. Burns, P. M., Plymouth, Mass.
S. B. Chase, P. M., Osage, Kan.
A. H. Morgan, P. M., Way Cross, Ga.
J. Talliaferro, P. M., Winchester, Ky.
S. W. Hobbs, P. M., Storm Lake, Iowa.
S. W. Cobb, P. M., Hanover, N. H.
G. W. Thomas, P. M., Canton, Miss.
H. L. Kenyon, P. M., Northfield, Vt.
J. G. Van Riper, P. M., Rutherford, N. J.
Val. Ringle, P. M., Wausau, Wis.
Samuel H. Smith, P. M., Winston, N. C.
P. S. Fulkerson, P. M., Lexington, Mo.
J. B. Hutchinson, P. M., Hazleton, Pa.
Henry C. Cassidy, P. M., Youngstown, Ohio.
Myron H. Peck, Jr., P. M., Batavia, N. Y.
John Milehan, P. M., Topeka, Kan.
Lloyd Reed, P. M., Clarksburg, W. Va.
Ben. P. Brown, P. M., Franklin, Ind.
R. W. Cowan, P. M., Ashland, Ohio.
C. Philbrick, P. M., Halstead, Kan.
Jerome La Due, P. M., Burlington, Kan.
J. Mayberry, P. M., Burlingame, Kan.
O. Y. Houzley, P. M., Grove City, Ill.
P. W. Kinsley, P. M., Utica, Ohio.
A. Shepherd, P. M., Waverly, Iowa.
Henry C. Shannon, P. M., Erie, Pa.
D. C. Brown, P. M., Brandon, Vt.
H. D. Beach, P. M., Coshocton, Ohio.
J. L. Lindley, P. M., Ansonia, Conn.
James T. Wiley, P. M., Elizabeth, N. J.
George T. Grass, P. M., Allentown, Pa.
N. Bruett, P. M., Jefferson, Wis.
James E. Neet, P. M., Versailles, Ky.
Bruce Bibson, P. M., Winchester, Va.
Bavard S. Gray, P. M., Portland, Ind.
C. Bowman, P. M., Yazoo City, Miss.
George W. Cooper, P. M., Columbus, Ind.
F. G. Brown, P. M., Palmyra, N. Y.
J. Knox Hall, P. M., Toulon, Ill.
S. L. P. Stone, P. M., Urbana, Ohio.
J. W. Owens, P. M., Jonesborough, Ark.
W. T. B. Schermerhorn, P. M., Hudson, Mich.
Daniel E. Soper, P. M., Newaygo, Mich.
W. B. Hall, P. M., Wallingford, Conn.
N. J. Price, P. M., Neosho, Mo.
F. M. Householder, P. M., Noblesville, Ind.
J. F. Henderson, P. M., Aledo, Ill.
J. B. Lombard, P. M., So. Framingham, Mass.
Geo. M. Houston, P. M., Harrisonville, Mo.
H. S. Crittenden, P. M., Glenn's Falls, N. Y.
S. K. Montgomery, P. M., Bristol, Conn.
G. D. Whittlesey, P. M., New London, Conn.
W. H. Sammis, P. M., Northport, N. Y.
S. W. Cobb, P. M., Hanover, N. H.
J. K. Coffroth, P. M., Somerset, Pa.
Wm. Swint, P. M., Boonville, Ind.
Henry Kingsley, P. M., Schoharie, N. Y.
J. J. Yeller, P. M., Ottawa, Ohio.
J. L. Handley, P. M., Fairfield, Ill.
C. E. Gallagher, P. M., Salamanca, N. Y.
F. M. Goodknight, P. M., Franklin, Ky.
Thos. R. Cooke, P. M., Victoria, Tex.
Chas. E. Axt, P. M., Odell, Ill.
J. W. Pence, P. M., Anderson, Ind.
Wm. J. Whipple, P. M., Winona, Minn.
C. B. Crawford, P. M., Mifflintown, Pa.
Alex. McKinnon, P. M., Crookston, Minn.

FROM EX-POSTMASTER-GENERALS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 29th, 1884.

MY DEAR SIR:—Please accept my thanks for recent copies of THE UNITED STATES MAIL. A paper like yours, which brings the workings of the postal system of the country before the people, cannot be otherwise than beneficial. Your paper is bright and interesting, and I wish you all success.

Yours truly,

FRANK HATTON.

CHICAGO, November 25th, 1884.

MY DEAR SIR:—I am just in receipt of THE UNITED STATES MAIL for October and November. I am greatly pleased with the contents, and the mechanical work is first-class. I sincerely hope your undertaking will be successful, and that you will be liberally patronized by those who are employed in the postal service, and others.

Yours truly,

W. Q. GRESHAM.

A LETTER addressed "g'big" safely reached Little Chebeague, for which place it was intended.—Augusta (Me.) Journal.

FRAUDULENT USE OF THE MAILS.

ZANESVILLE, O., July 28th.—[Special].—J. M. Rain and B. F. Bandy were arrested here this afternoon on a charge of using the mails for fraudulent purposes. They sent out cards signed "National Express Company" to thousands of people throughout the country, calling for 25 cents charges on an uncalled-for valuable package. There is no National Express Company west of Buffalo. Bain until recently owned the *Poultry Advertiser*, a poultry paper of national circulation.

Advertisements.

Advertisements of a character suitable to THE UNITED STATES MAIL will hereafter be accepted at the rate of 50 cents per agate line, payment to be made in advance.

J. M. MCGREW, Wm. SMALL,
Late Auditor P. O. Dept. Late Inspector P. O. Dept.

MCGREW & SMALL,
Attorneys and Counsellors at Law,
Room 27, PACIFIC BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.
PATENTS, PENSIONS, CLAIMS.

Practice before the Supreme Court, District of Columbia, the Court of Claims, and the Executive Departments of the General Government.

Special attention given to the business of Postmasters, U. S. Attorneys, U. S. Commissioners, Clerks, Marshals, Internal Revenue Collectors, Pension Agents, Army and Navy Officers, Indian Agents, Registers and Receivers of Land Offices, Surveyors and Collectors of Customs, Railroad and Steamboat Companies, Mail Contractors and National Banks.

WANTED SITUATION.

By a lady in a post-office. Have had eight years' experience in a third-class Post, Domestic and International Money-order Office. Address full particulars, wages given, etc. The highest references. Address, AMANDA M. HOLMES, Los Angeles, Cal.

A SURE CHANCE TO MAKE MONEY!

THE MOST PROFITABLE PUBLICATIONS
FOR POSTMASTERS AND AGENTS
ARE THOSE OF

Frank Leslie's Publishing House

—THE—

Most Brilliant Illustrated Publications
IN THE WORLD.

A subscriber may be found in every family for one or more periodicals from the following list. Note the extent and variety:

Frank Leslie's Illust. Newspaper (W'kly) \$4.00
The only Pictorial Record of Current Events. Devoted to News, Literature, Art and Science.

Frank Leslie's Illust. Zeitung (Weekly) 4.00
(In the German Language.) A Weekly Compendium of News and Literature.

Frank Leslie's Sunday Magazine (M'thly) 2.50
REV. T. DEWITT TALMAGE, D.D., Editor.
The Best Pictorial Religious Periodical.

Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly..... 3.00
The Cheapest and Most Attractive Magazine.

Frank Leslie's Pleasant Hours (Monthly) 1.75
Cheap and Entertaining. Devoted to Fiction. Every Article Complete.

Frank Leslie's Budget (Monthly)..... 2.25
A Magazine of Wit, Humor, Anecdote and Adventure.

Specimen Copies of each of the above sent for 30 cents.

Forward net amount by Money Order or Registered Letter. In sending subscriptions or corresponding, be careful to send name and address in full, also name of paper. Send cash with order.

Mrs. FRANK LESLIE, Publisher,
[P. O. Box 3706.] 53, 55 & 57 PARK PLACE, New York.

RUN DOWN BY DETECTIVES.

The Holders of the Postage-stamps Stolen from the Minneapolis Post-office on the Night of July 8th.

CHICAGO, Ill., Aug. 3.—An important arrest was made to-day by Pinkerton's National Detective Agency in the capture of Thomas Finnucan, David Shanahan and Noyes S. Thompson, who are charged with being implicated in the robbery of some \$15,000 worth of stamps which were stolen from the Minneapolis Post-office on the night of July 8th. A most sensational feature of the case is the fact that Shanahan, who is said to have been the first man that received the stamps, is Supervisor of the South Town of Chicago, and is under very heavy official bonds for his good conduct in office. It seems that immediately after the robbery George B. Kidder, the Chief Inspector for the Post-office Department in this division, put the matter into W. A. Pinkerton's hands. A short time ago the latter learned that large numbers of stamps had been privately offered to a number of Chicago merchants. Last week L. E. Crandall, of 114 Wabash Avenue, was approached by a man of the name of Frank Wicks, whom he had formerly known as a commission merchant here. Wicks wanted him to take several thousand dollars' worth of stamps, and finally a bargain was struck and the rate of payment fixed at sixty cents on the dollar. Mr. Crandall informed Pinkerton of the affair, and a trap was set for Wicks.

Yesterday the latter, accompanied by Noyes S. Thompson, of the county infirmary, arrived at Mr. Crandall's place of business, and in the presence of the disguised Pinkerton men counted out over \$4,000 worth of stamps. They were promptly arrested and taken to Pinkerton's office, where Thompson made the surprising statement that he had received the stamps from Shanahan, the South Town Supervisor. When the latter was arrested and questioned, he stated that he received the stamps to sell on commission from Thomas Finnucan, who is a man worth over \$50,000, but whose past record has been very bad, and who is known to the detectives as a "handler" of thieves. Finnucan was implicated in the robbery of the Union Iron & Steel Company four years ago, when the safe was "cracked" and some \$12,000 taken. In this case he was released on a suspended sentence on account of his father's position and his own youth. All the parties are under arrest, and will appear before Commissioner Hoyne this afternoon.

A UNIQUE CASE.

WASHINGTON, June 28th.—Mrs. S. B. Cushing, of Michigan, a lady clerk in the Post-office Department, recently astounded the officials by asking that she be removed from the service. She refused to give any reason, and stated that she wanted it in that way. Her request was not granted, but after she had remained away from her desk for several days without leave, the Postmaster-general concluded to gratify her request. So to-day he made out an order for her dismissal, adding the words "at her own request," so that it might appear in the official records. It is believed that there has never been known a case in the history of the Government of a clerk desiring to be removed.

RAISING A MONEY ORDER.

THE post-office inspectors are after Miss Johanna Moore, a young woman whose home is in the vicinity of Champaign, Ill., but who has been living in Chicago and Milwaukee as a domestic for some time past. Her sister, Katie Moore, who lives at Champaign, recently

sent a money order for \$1 to Mrs. Hugh Duffin, of this city. When Mrs. Duffin went to the post-office to draw the amount, she found that she could not do so without being identified, and to save herself that trouble she turned the order over to Johanna Moore, who was then in the city. It seems that Johanna conceived the idea of raising the amount from \$1 to \$31 by inserting the figure 3 at the proper place, and the order, thus altered, was presented at the post-office last Thursday. The fraud was immediately discovered by the examiner, and instead of paying the amount, he called Inspector Metcalf and turned Johanna over to him. The young woman succeeded in making the officers believe that she was not responsible for the alteration and that it must have been done by the sender. She was released, but when the case was more thoroughly investigated, evidence was not wanting to show that the girl was really the guilty party. In the meantime, however, she seemed to have taken fright and left the city, for when an officer was sent to arrest her yesterday, it was learned that she had gone to Milwaukee. It



THE OLD AND THE NEW WAY.

was discovered that she was engaged to be married to Alexander Hummel, a young wagon-maker, and that the marriage was to take place last night in Chicago. The marshal took Hummel in charge to prevent him from communicating with his sweetheart, and learned from him that Johanna would arrive in the city on the 7 p.m. train from Milwaukee. Deputy Marshal Barchard, Inspector Kidder, and the prospective bridegroom, were at the depot when the train arrived last evening, but no Johanna appeared. Hummel professed to be as much surprised and disappointed as the officers, but the latter are now suspicious of him, and begin to think he is accessory to the crime.—*Chicago Tribune*.

THE STOLEN MAIL-POUCH.

The Missing Bag Contained Seventy-one Registered Letters.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., July 31.—The mysterious disappearance of mail-pouch No. 353, which is supposed to have been stolen between New York and Pittsburgh, is the all-absorbing topic of discussion among the railway postal employees in this city. One of the postal clerks who runs between Pittsburgh and New York, says the postal clerk who signed for the pouch

was not Ferald, but Fiedler. He was a Bohemian, and lives at Terre Haute, Ind. The pouch contained seventy-one registered packages, nearly all of them from foreign countries. It is difficult to estimate the exact amount in the pouch. It may be only \$10,000, or it may reach as high as the figures that were published, which put the value at \$100,000. The postal clerk interviewed said that Fiedler admitted that he had received for it, but said that he did not go to see whether all of the pouches in the list were accounted for when he took charge of them at Pittsburgh, as he did not have time. The inspectors then told him that if it was not received within a certain time, he would have to pay for its contents.

A KANSAS P.M. SHORT.

On Friday last E. F. Finley, a Post-office Inspector, was in this city and concluded while here to take a look through the office and see if everything was in proper shape. He had no suspicions of wrong, but simply examined the books as a matter of business. W. H.

Hiles, the new Democratic postmaster, did not treat the inspector with the utmost civility, yet the books were examined and the cash on hand counted. To the surprise of the inspector a shortage of over \$600 was found. The postmaster was called upon to account for the missing money, but failed to do so. An information, charging him with embezzlement, was sworn out and he was placed under arrest. When it became known that he was under arrest and that the accounts were so far short, there was a genuine sensation throughout the city. Every one expressed astonishment, as it was universally believed that the post-office was being honestly conducted. The bondsmen were called together and an election for a temporary postmaster resulted in the selection of W. R. Cannon, under whose supervision the office is now being conducted. The deficiency was met by Jacob Hiles, father of the postmaster, and the case, which was commenced before Justice Emery, was on Tuesday transferred to the District Deputy of the United States Circuit Court, at Kirwin, whither the postmaster was taken for a preliminary hearing. There is universal regret that the postmaster, who is a man of good education, good habits and apparently upright principles, should be thrown under such a cloud of disgrace, and this regret is the more deeply felt on account of the young wife whose bright and joyful anticipations for the future have been so clouded. We trust the matter may be satisfactorily adjusted, for W. H. Hiles has qualifications for a life of honor and usefulness, and we cannot believe that he is guilty of the crime of embezzlement.—*Norton (Kan.) Courier*.

THE EVANSTON POST-OFFICE.

Mr. J. T. METCALF, Chief Inspector of the United States Post-office Department, has recently been on his annual official visit to the Evanston Post-office. After examining its working-system, its accounts and its general management, he pronounced it one of the most satisfactorily conducted post-offices he has ever inspected. The gross revenue of the Evanston Post-office for the last fiscal year amounted to about \$13,000, an increase of nearly \$1,000 over the previous year. Mr. John Childs is an efficient postmaster, and, being so, the authorities at Washington are in no hurry to put another man in his place.—*Chicago Journal*.

A PAPER with a printed label addressed to "Samuel O. Nichols, Nowhere, N. H.," was received at the No. Weare Post-office last week. On the wrapper was written: "Do you know Sam? Try No. Weare." Postmaster Simons knew "Sam," and the paper was placed in the proper box.—*Concord (N. H.) Monitor*.